

Hammersmith

CHRONICLE

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THE STAR OF
STRICTLY

TALK OF THE TOWN
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LOCALS' AIRPORT PROTEST

The Lyric Theatre in Hammersmith is to hire 12 apprentices in an effort to help steer young people towards a career in the arts. The new intake will start work in March following a recruitment process this month. Around £800,000 has already been pumped into creating 56 apprenticeships at the theatre. Sherice Pitter, pictured, was named the Lyric's apprentice of the year in 2016.



Racist abuse set to increase, says victim

Warning from Muslim woman who was spat on and screamed at in chippy

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A MUSLIM woman who was spat on and screamed at in a vile racist attack in Hammersmith has warned of a potential boom in Brexit-related hate crimes.

Nahella Ashraf said racist abuse "on the ground" would get worse this year as politicians plot the country's course out of the European Union.

Local anti-racism campaigners rallied to support Ms Ashraf, 46, after she was assaulted by a stranger at a fish and chip shop in King Street this month.

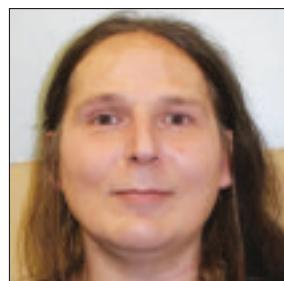
She said a man tried to grab her by the arm and then shouted racist abuse before spitting towards her.

He then shouted "people like her kill people" as members of staff forced him out of the restaurant.

"It was interesting that that could happen in a place like Hammersmith, in such a central location, and quite clearly a racist attack," said Ms Ashraf, who had been visiting London from Manch-



Nahella Ashraf



Patrick Collier

ester. "The fact that he picked out a Muslim woman in a crowd, I think, is indicative of the racism we are seeing in society."

Ms Ashraf, a veteran anti-racism campaigner, said she decided to speak out in an effort to raise awareness of racist attacks targeting Muslim women.

"However shocking it is, it is really important we talk about this because it happens all the time, we know that. But many women don't

want to report it," she said. "When you look at the figures, it is actually Muslim women like myself who wear the hijab that are having to deal with the attacks."

"The only thing we can do is raise the awareness that these attacks are happening but also to build the biggest anti-racist movement this country has ever seen - because it is going to get worse."

Dozens of anti-racism campaigners staged a protest vigil at Lyric



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Dirty air link to violence

SCIENTISTS have offered a shocking new explanation for the surge in violence in Hammersmith and Fulham - dirty air.

Following recent research which revealed that pollution increases the risk of dementia, now another study suggests that London's toxic air may also be the link to the rise in violent attacks.

The US findings tie in with official statistics for London, where last week City Hall issued a toxic air red alert in eight boroughs including Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea, and Westminster. As the city's air quality has worsened in recent years, burglary rates have not increased but incidents of violent attacks have soared as people become more aggressive.

Now calls have gone out to Mayor of London Sadiq Khan to launch City Hall's own research to discover if the capital's increasingly-deteriorating air quality is linked to the rise in violence.

Caroline Pidgeon, a member of the GLA's General Assembly and a leading campaigner on air pollution, said: "There is a growing body of evidence which suggests there is a direct connection."

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Ross Noble at Richmond – review on page 20

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IT literacy project 'a holistic answer to lots of problems'



Jaya Lalwani, right, with Citizens Advice colleagues and TechTalk volunteers

We are living in a digital age where our friends and family are at our fingertips 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We only need to tap a few buttons to pull up the latest headlines, check the football scores, watch a film or listen to music.

But there are thousands of Londoners who remain disconnected from the technological revolution.

While servers, spreadsheets and hashtags are now second nature to most of us, many still find themselves frozen out of the digital world.

"The predominant barrier to entry with digital inclusion is fear, this idea of being too old to learn," says Jaya Lalwani, who

heads up TechTalk, a unique project run by Citizens Advice Hammersmith and Fulham specially designed to get people connected.

"They think 'Why do I need to learn how to use a computer when there are so many young people out there who could just help me?'"

"If you have a situation from which you can't extract yourself and it's a recurring problem you can solve yourself, you shouldn't have to ask for help for that."

TechTalk has only been up and running at Avonmore Library since March 2015 but it has already helped around 500 people to get online.

The service is primarily there to help jobseekers and the elderly, who for various reasons have never learned how to use a computer.

But it is available to anyone, of any age, living in Hammersmith and Fulham.

Run entirely by volunteers, the project is based on personalised support starting with a one-to-one interview.

Citizens Advice "digital champions" then guide people on a tailored programme of training to bring their computer skills up to speed.

"Some of our clients don't have email, they don't have an (email) address, they don't know how it works – they don't even know where to start," says Jaya.

"It's kind of a holistic answer to lots of problems, a one-stop-shop solution for them to come in and get some digital support.

"It makes people very comfortable to know that they just have to come to one venue to find multiple solutions to multiple problems."

Most people don't want to admit that they can't do something, explains Jaya. But when they are asked the question and offered the right support, they are extremely determined.

"They want to know that they are going to be supported, that they are not going to be left on their own in front of a computer and three clicks later they are not going to know what to do.

"It's the idea that someone is there that is helpful, that is familiar to them, that makes them happy to come and ask you because they have seen you talk to others."

Avonmore is the only library in the country run entirely by Citizens Advice.

Jaya says the multi-faceted setup enables the library to function more as a community centre – and the unique prototype is now being used as a role model for other Citizens Advice centres across the UK.

People may check in just for digital support but end up staying to take part in one of the many other bespoke sessions and events at the library.

"It's the dedication of our volunteers coming in and being motivated to help," says Jaya.

"Quite a few of our digital champions are clients who actually came in originally with a problem of their own.

"It's that circle of people coming through the door and saying 'We really like what you do here'.

"It helps with their confidence, with their CV development, their ability to stand up and speak or lead a group session. We're so proud of that."

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'Go wild' call to scarecrow fans

THE Royal Horticultural Society is calling for pre-schools and primary schools from Kensington and Chelsea to take "a walk on the wild side" and design wildlife-themed scarecrows for display at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show in July.

The shortlisted schools will be asked to build their scarecrow designs which will be judged by visitors at the show. To enter, pupils must be in year six or below and must be registered with the RHS Campaign for School Gardening.

The winners will receive £200 worth of gardening vouchers, with second and third placed schools receiving £150 and £50 worth of gardening vouchers. The deadline for entries is 10 March 2017.

"The schools are challenged to use plants and recycled materials to create their 'walk on the wild side' inspired scarecrows," said a RHS spokesman.

"Children can let their imaginations run wild, taking inspiration from people, places and animals across the UK. The wildlife theme will run across this year's RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, raising awareness of the urgent need to support Britain's declining wildlife."

To enter and to sign up to the RHS Campaign for School Gardening, schools should visit the website: <https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/Competitions/Hampton-Court-Scarecrows>

Gemma Lake, Deputy Show Manager for RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, said: "The scarecrow competition is an incredibly popular feature at the show and I'm really looking forward to seeing the imaginative ideas the children come up with this year. I love seeing the excitement on the children's faces when they attend the show on Press Day and see their hard work on display."

Railway death 'not suspicious'

A MAN died after he was hit by a train at Ravenscourt Park station.

Officers from the British Transport Police found the man's body on the tracks on the evening of Sunday January 15.

A spokesman said the death was not being treated as suspicious and that a file would be prepared for the coroner.

There were severe delays on the Piccadilly Line between 7pm and around 9pm and the service was temporarily closed between Green Park and Acton Town.

Taskforce to protect parks

TOWN-HALL chiefs have set up a new taskforce to safeguard Hammersmith and Fulham's parks and green spaces.

The Parks Commission, which will comprise residents and members of community groups as well as councillors, held its first meeting last week.

Protecting parks from the threat of new developments is expected to be a major aspect of the commission's brief.

Council under attack for 'bungled' regeneration plan

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

WESTMINSTER City Council is under attack for spending almost £30 million on Pimlico's Ebury Bridge Estate regeneration plan without a brick being laid.

Questioning from Labour councillors has revealed that £29 million has been spent on the Ebury Bridge Estate scheme before any building has begun.

Labour councillors have condemned the management of the project, which is expected to cost more than £40 million before work starts, as "bungled" and "farcical".

A Labour spokesman said: "Residents in the Ebury Bridge Estate have been waiting more than three years for better housing after voting in favour of renewal plans in 2013 that would replace aging buildings, and provide 101 additional much-needed homes."

"However, plans are many years behind schedule and it now appears more than £29 million has been spent and a further £14.8 million will be spent – totalling £43.8 million – before work will even begin."

The majority of the money has been spent on purchasing properties



Ebury Bridge Estate

on the estate – but other costs include more than £700,000 on architects' fees and Sitex security doors.

Cllr Jason Williams, Labour member for the Churchill Ward, said: "Residents will be rightly concerned that so much money has been spent yet there is still a lack of clarity as to the final plans for the estate. There is an urgent need for the council to outline their proposals and get on with providing the homes residents were first promised four years ago."

Cllr Tim Roca, Labour housing spokesman, said: "This is a stagger-

ing sum of money to be spent with nothing show for it – not even a final plan. In the meantime, it raises even more questions about the bungled council regeneration programme."

"The council need to explain why at least some of the properties purchased have not been used for temporary accommodation, instead of sending families to outer boroughs where they may have no local connection."

"They also need to come clean about how much rent and council tax has been lost since the properties

were vacated. What is clear is that the council's farcical record on housing continues."

A council spokesman said: "The Ebury Bridge redevelopment is part of Westminster City Council's ambitious regeneration plans."

"The planning application for the redevelopment of Ebury Bridge was approved in 2014 following a week-long ballot and the close involvement of residents on the design process."

"The renewal plans for Ebury Bridge will provide high-quality new homes and significant improvements to existing homes, along with vastly improved public spaces, which will enhance the character and value of the area. The plans will also provide residents with improvements to the energy efficiency of their homes, enhanced community facilities and provide future job opportunities."

"We are committed to delivering a regeneration scheme across Ebury Bridge that honours the promises made to residents in the original vote."

"Preliminary work is in full flow. Building and quantity surveyors were appointed to carry out the refurbishment surveys in September 2016."

"Residents in Edgson House and Wainwright House have begun to be rehoused."

Olympian's talk inspires students

DLD College London welcomed a gold medal winner from the Rio Olympics to give an inspiring speech on her sporting success as well as her promotion of LGBT+.

Kate Richardson-Walsh, England and Team GB hockey captain, spent an afternoon engaging with the pupils at DLD College London to tell them about her life, her Olympic experiences and her views on equality.

She also shared what challenges she faced growing up and what it means to be married to an equally high-profile woman – team-mate Helen Richardson-Walsh. The Atrium was filled with admiring pupils from DLD and Portland Place School. A video showing highlights of Kate's career, including hockey training and winning gold at Rio, was played.

The talk was a great success with the pupils engaging and asking more questions in the Q&A than with any other guest speaker to date.

Jo Harland, BTEC creative media production tutor and leader of DLD Pride, said: "Kate Richardson-Walsh is such an inspiration, she freely and openly speaks of her successes and her experiences. I think that there are many students with relevant questions who do not understand the issues facing LGBT+ people, or who are ignorant to the lifestyle choices others make."

"Kate Richardson-Walsh was able to help dispel some myths and show that a lesbian relationship is like any other, based on love and mutual respect. Both Kate and Helen's amazing achievements show that with dedication and ambition, everyone can succeed. It was heartwarming to see the admiration and respect shown by the students at DLD towards this hard-working, strong female role model."



The DLD students meet Olympic champion Kate Richardson-Walsh, who brought along the medal she won in Rio

Mayor is slammed for slashing Met jobs fund

BY GEOFF BAKER
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AS the mayor of London loudly protests against government cuts in police funding which would make it "increasingly difficult to keep Londoners safe from terror threats", he has been attacked at City Hall for slashing almost £40 million from the Met's jobs fund.

Sadiq Khan has been accused of practising smoke and mirrors populism by General Assembly member Gareth Bacon, who has decried a move by the mayor to cut £730,000 a week from the Met's recruitment budget.

Conservative member Mr Bacon claims that the mayor's cutback will mean the loss of 1,000 officers.

In a furious attack on the Labour chief of the city, Mr Bacon said: "Even for a mayor who has rowed back on almost all of his major pre-election pledges, this is an astonishing development. Just weeks ago Sadiq Khan announced he was raising council tax in order to maintain a target of 32,000 police officers in London.

"Now he's confirmed he is



Mayor Sadiq Khan

removing £38 million from the Met's police officer staffing budget, meaning it cannot afford to recruit any more than the current level of 31,000 officers.

"Does Sadiq Khan think he can just promise whatever seems popular at the time without having to deliver it?

"This kind of smoke and mirrors politics seriously undermines the office of the mayor

and could badly damage public confidence in London's elected officials."

Meanwhile, Mr Khan has warned that "it would become increasingly difficult to keep Londoners safe from growing security threats" if the government continues to underfund the Met, or makes further cuts in funding.

"Over the coming weeks, Sadiq will be calling on ministers to listen to the very serious concerns about Londoners' safety ahead of a government decision on funding," said the mayor's spokesman.

"As the government prepares to change the way the policing budget is divided between forces across the country there is a real, and potentially devastating, risk that the Met could lose millions from its budget."

City Hall says that the last time the police funding formula was considered by the Home Office, in autumn 2015, the Met stood to lose between £184 million and £700 million from its yearly budget. Ministers are expected to make a decision about whether to proceed in March.

"Keeping Londoners safe is the mayor's highest priority, and following the horrific terrorist attacks in Berlin and Istanbul, it is more important than ever that the Met has the resources it needs to protect us," said the mayor's spokesman.

"Already, the Met is having to find £1 billion of savings as a result of systematic government cuts since 2010.

"So far, this has led to the loss of 2,800 police staff, including hundreds of police community support officers, and the closure of dozens of police stations – and the mayor has asked the Met to go even further in terms of restructuring and reducing back-office costs to make efficiency savings.

"In addition, Sadiq has made the very difficult decision to raise council tax from April by an average of 8p a week per household to keep officer numbers as high as possible."

Last week the mayor warned that even with this extra funding, "the Met faces an extremely challenging financial situation, and if further cuts are made then a fall in police officer numbers will be inevitable".

Mr Khan said: "Keeping Londoners safe is my first priority as mayor. That means keeping police officer numbers as high as possible, especially in the wake of recent horrific attacks in Berlin and Istanbul.

"But in the face of continued pressures on the police budget, exacerbated and deepened by central government, this is becoming increasingly difficult.

"This year, I have done everything I can to protect police officer numbers – including making the very difficult decision to raise council tax.

"But if the government subjects London's police service to any further cuts, it will become near impossible to maintain the number of police on our streets.

"My message to the government today is clear: Londoners' safety will be put at risk if police funding is cut any further, and ministers must listen to our concerns."

The mayor's spokesman said one of the main causes of underfunding is the government's refusal to fully fund activity undertaken because of London's position as a major global capital and the seat of government, such as diplomatic protection, and policing major events such as protests, concerts and football matches.

"This costs some £346 million a year but London currently receives funding from government for barely half of this," he said.

"The Met also has less money because the previous mayor, Boris Johnson, cut the police council-tax precept last year – the same year as the mayoral election – against the advice of his own government."

Writing for you every week, London's most outspoken entrepreneur

Charlie pipes up!



Taking advantage of new technology is firms' key to success

FINDING ways to make a workforce more productive can often see entrepreneurs walk the fine line between business success and failure. Taking advantage of technology is just one way to swing the result in their favour.

The UK economy has wrestled with the so-called productivity puzzle for years, often finding it a conundrum that even the greatest-ever panel of *Countdown* contestants and Carol Vorderman would fail to solve.

And particularly now, when in the future UK business will have to fight even harder for a place at the table, firms have to think smarter about how they can not only remain competitive but more productive.

Labour productivity, meaning what we produce for the amount of work it takes to do it, is the key factor is ensuring businesses succeed in increasingly challenging markets.

In common-sense terms, there are two ways to be more productive by making more things or selling more services.

First is working more hours. With some of the longest working hours in Europe, it'll be tough to squeeze any more minutes out of a day. That said, as a nation, because unemployment is low, collectively we are working more hours than previously. But it's not really the answer.

The second option, and the more practical, is to work smarter. That means we can create more and do more with the same amount of effort.

There are a number of ways to do this, one of which is through the use of technology.

As a plumber working in one of the world's oldest industries, I'm not what's known as an early adopter. My Nokia mobile phone is testament to that but at least its battery lasts me a lot more than four hours. However, when it comes to business tech, I'd like to think I know my apps from my apples.

During the last recession,

for example, we increased our focus on productivity by investing in advanced vehicle-tracking systems to ensure we can always get the closest and most appropriate engineers to jobs. It made a huge difference to our productivity.

And it appears technology's next weapon of choice in the war on low productivity is wearable tech. A firm called Humanyze has come up with a credit-card-sized bit of kit that can monitor staff 24 hours a day.

Some have laughed it off as bit of a joke – but trust me, electronic monitoring of workers is on its way to UK businesses and, in fact, it's here now.

The badges, worn on a lanyard, recording fitness, productivity and stress levels, are apparently being trialled in the UK at Deloitte, parts of the NHS and a bank.

People can whinge on about privacy and intrusion all they like – but when their choices are to use the tech and avoid being on a plane with a pilot suffering a heart attack on landing, or run over by a bus, whose driver has fallen asleep, maybe they'll change their minds.

Similar things used to be said about CCTV, pagers and mobile phones, and now look at how things have turned out. So yes, I think this stuff is a good idea, and I'm 100 per cent confident that it will be common place in less than three years, and three cheers for that I say.

I don't want to know things only a person's GP should know about but I do want to know if people are dragging the chain, and I also want to know if they are in some way struggling and if there's anything that I can do to improve things for them.

The world has come a long way since the days of the Roman empire built on slavery or the workhouse-m mentality of Victorian Britain. And this isn't a draconian big business, Big Brother thing; this is businesses doing right by workers and vice versa to ensure we can deliver the levels of productivity required to deliver the success our efforts deserve.

Views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of this newspaper

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New action group insists: fight to stop Heathrow expansion goes on

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

FURIOUS campaigners in Hammersmith and Fulham have vowed to lead the fight against Heathrow expansion as protestors prepare to challenge ministers over their decision to give the go-ahead to a controversial third runway.

A new pressure group, called h&fnothirdrunway, will meet for the first time next week in a bid to rally support against the plan.

The Government announced in the autumn that it was backing the creation of an extra runway at the UK's largest airport, despite major concerns over noise pollution.

New flight paths created by the additional runway are likely to pass directly over Hammersmith and Shepherd's Bush – a prospect which has angered many residents.

Campaigners are now beginning a new chapter in their bid to block the runway and are appealing for members of the public to show their support.

Christina Smyth, who headed Hammersmith and Fulham council's airports commission in 2015, founded the new group with fellow campaigner Victoria Timberlake last year.

She said: "The campaign against a third runway continues and we really want to get as much local support as possible."

John Stewart, the chairman of the airports campaign organisation Hacan, will speak at the group's first meeting in Hammersmith on Monday (January 30).

And organisers hope dozens of residents who fear the impact of a third runway on their day-to-day lives will turn up to voice their concerns.

"We are really lucky to have John Stewart as our guest speaker," Ms Smyth added. "He has expert knowledge after campaigning for many years to protect the rights of residents living under Heathrow's flight paths.

"Anyone is welcome to come along,



Protestors from Hammersmith and Fulham campaigning against Heathrow expansion in the Prime Minister's Maidenhead constituency last year

Picture: h&fnothirdrunway



whether they are members or not. It is time to get involved."

A number of environmental organisations, pressure groups and local councils have threatened legal action in the wake of the Government's commitment to Heathrow expansion in October.

It came after the Howard Davies Commission recommended the option to ministers in 2015.

Hammersmith and Fulham's own airports commission concluded two years ago that Heathrow expansion would have a severe detrimental impact on quality of life for people living in the borough.

The first meeting of h&fnothirdrunway will take place at Holy Innocents Church in Paddenswick Road, Hammersmith, on Monday, January 30 at 7.30pm.

Garage sites fit for new

MORE than 16,000 new homes could be built across London on land occupied by unused or rundown garages owned by councils, according to new research.

A study of local authority-owned lock-ups in the capital revealed 24 councils own a total of 53,640 – with 41 per cent empty or in disrepair.

Demolishing them and replacing them with affordable one-bedroom flats could go some way to solving the London housing crisis where the average home now costs £475,000.

The figures were revealed in a Freedom of Information request by property crowdfunding platform Property Partner.

Researchers worked out that the 22,000 empty council-owned garages in London covered a total of eight million square feet.

If they were replaced with developments made up of 500 sq/ft flats, it is estimated 16,000 affordable homes could be built.

The London Assembly says between 49,000 and 80,000 new homes are needed each year to cope with the projected population growth of a million in the next ten years.

Dan Gandesha, CEO of Property Partner, said: "This is just a snapshot of publicly owned land in London which is clearly surplus to requirement, underused or undeveloped."

"When we have a crisis in affordable housing not just in the capital but in the UK, it begs the question whether councils in Britain should either sell off the land for development or build new homes themselves."

"If a significant number of council garages, which are part of housing estates, are not even rented to those who should have a right to them – local authority tenants – then it could be argued that this is a wasted opportunity."

The worst offending boroughs are Ealing, Havering, Brent and Enfield, which have respectively 74 per cent (1,480 empty garages), 72 per cent (1,469), 71 per cent (1,234) and 70 per cent (2,008) lying idle.

The most expensive garage was in Chelsea, which sold for £670,000 in what is believed to be a record for a garage in the capital.

Teenager dies after assault

A TEENAGER was killed just yards from Wembley Stadium in the early hours of Friday morning.

The victim, believed to be 19, is thought to be the first teenager murdered in London in 2017.

He was found collapsed near a block of flats in Wembley, north London, just a few streets away from the national football stadium.

He was treated at the scene, near a Novotel Hotel, by paramedics at 1.15am but he was pronounced dead at the scene.

Scotland Yard said he had been assaulted but further inquiries were under way to establish exactly how he died.

A man in his 20s was arrested on suspicion of murder and was being questioned by police.

The scene was cordoned off by officers as investigations continued on Friday.

A Scotland Yard spokesman said: "Police in Brent were called to Fulton Road at 01:13hrs on Friday, January 20 2017 following reports a man had been assaulted. Officers and London Ambulance Service attended and found a man in his late teens suffering from assault-related injuries."

"He died at the scene a short while later."



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HAS anybody gonged in the recent New Year's Honours thrown their medal away already?

If so, contact London binmen who found an OBE medal in the rubbish.

The waste clearance company EnviroWaste found the medal during a routine waste haul and is appealing to the public for any information that could help reunite the medal with its owner.

The medal is in a black leather presentation box, with OBE printed in gold print on the lid, and also contains some of the paperwork to go with it including a "when to wear" guide.

The company has already tried to find the owner on its own, and is now appealing to the public for any information on anyone they know in the London area who has lost or misplaced an OBE.

To help with the search,



The OBE, complete with its presentation box, found by binmen last week

EnviroWaste.co.uk has created a contact page with images of the OBE, for members of the public who may have any information to share: <http://www.envirowaste.co.uk/feeds/news/can-you-help-us-find-the-rightful-owner-of-this-lost-obe.aspx>

'Rudest landlord', 90, thaws thanks to surprise party

BY GEOFF BAKER

geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

"LONDON'S rudest landlord", Soho legend Norman Balon, famed for shocking customers at the Coach and Horses, was shocked himself for once when his old regulars sprang a 90th birthday surprise on his return to the Greek Street pub.

Mr Balon, notorious for his abuse to customers at the bar that he ran for 63 years before his retirement in 2006, thought he was just popping in for a pint at his old pub – but he found the Coach packed with pals going back to the days when his regulars included the *Private Eye* team, artists Francis Bacon, Lucien Freud and Damien Hirst and actors John Hurt and Peter O'Toole.

At first he gave a typically grumpy response to the crowd of 120 who had been invited in secret by landlord Alastair Choat.

"When Norman first walked in and saw everybody he turned to his wife Grazia and said 'F-it, someone's having a private party, let's go somewhere else,'" said Mr Choat.

"She said 'No, they're all here for you!' – to which Norman characteristically responded 'F-off! They're all f-ing mad!'"

But when the penny dropped the once-famously miserable Mr Balon thawed.

"As soon as Norman realised the good, the bad and the ugly of Soho were there to pay their respects and celebrate with him, he was back in his stride as if he had never left," said Mr Choat.

"But on this occasion Norman was very happy and this was evident in the smiles and laughter ringing around the pub.

Struan Rogers, the actor and Norman's great friend and chess partner, really summed the occasion up and left not a dry eye in the house when he said 'These

people would not have turned up here today if you were not held in such high regard. And on behalf of everyone here, thank you very much not for what you were but for what you are."

Following the speeches, including from Mr Balon's daughter Natasha, the acclaimed cartoonist Michael Heath presented Mr Balon with the latest cartoon addition to the pub's collection, Norman's 90th birthday card.

"Michael proclaimed Norman to be his father figure in his very moving speech. By the end even Norman had a tear in his eye. But that did not put him off his traditional style," said Mr Choat.

"In his acceptance speech he said 'I hated the customers, they were a bloody nuisance, every one of them. But I am very touched about all of this. It's been a fantastic day, a complete surprise and don't forget to pay your bill before you go'."



Norman Balon at the surprise party to mark his 90th birthday. Top, Mr Balon with Michael Heath and Struan Rogers. Above, Mr Balon with his daughter Natasha and Coach and Horses' current landlord Alastair Choat

ADVERTISER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Why should I go to a public event about health and social care?

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Time to share memories of life at prep school

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

FORMER Kensington Prep girls are being invited to share their memories of school life to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the institution's move to Fulham.

Kensington Prep is compiling a

school memories book with anecdotes, photos and memorabilia to celebrate the anniversary of the school's move in 1997.

"The school would love to hear memories of former pupils about their childhood at Kensington Prep," said a spokesman.

Former pupils are asked to email



Now and then – the photograph above, of a current classroom at the school, shows how times have changed since the era shown in the picture left



their memories to alumnae@kenprep.gdst.net or write to Memories, Kensington Prep School, 596 Fulham Road, London, SW6 5PA.

Kensington Prep School traces its history to Chelsea High School, the first school founded by the Girls' Public Day School Company, now the Girls' Day School Trust.

It opened in January 1873 at Smith Street in Chelsea with 20 girls under headmistress Miss Porter.

In 1879 it moved to Cromwell Road in Kensington and was renamed Kensington High School.

The original Chelsea High School continued functioning until 1894.

In 1888 Kensington High moved once more, to Lytham House in Kens-

ington – but it was destroyed by a bomb in 1941. The school was relocated to Phillimore Gardens as a temporary measure for the duration of the Second World War while the management searched for a better location.

In the end, the senior school was closed several years after the war ended. The junior school remained open and became Kensington Prep.

The award-winning Kensington Prep is now an independent day school in Fulham for girls aged four to 11.

The school is set in more than an acre of grounds with netball and tennis courts and a pond for environmental studies and has some of the best

facilities of any prep school in London. The school is non-denominational. There are 290 girls in classes of about 20 girls.

The school offers traditional values combined with innovative teaching and is at the forefront of IT.

It has been awarded the prestigious ICT mark for the second time and there are iPad tablets and laptops in the classroom. There is also an IT suite. The school has also just introduced a new digital learning platform and parent portal.

There is a now a large library at the heart of the school, a state-of-the-art science lab and dedicated specialist rooms for art, design technology, music and drama.

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Dayan Chumburidze, right, accepts her award from special guest Baroness Pauline Perry, left, and principal Rachel Borland



Winter concert is 'best yet'

THE annual winter concert at DLD College London proved "the best yet", with 20 students rewarded for their outstanding achievements and a spectacular display of talent showcased.

Parents, teachers, staff and students gathered in the atrium of the Westminster Bridge-based college to enjoy the show and to applaud the students for their hard work and dedication.

MC Michael Brett welcomed guests and introduced the prize winners. An abundance of musicians took to the stage. From pi-

anists and singers to bands and the ukulele group, the atrium was filled with music and superb poetry and prose readings.

This academic year, the college also raised money for Crisis at Christmas which helps people who are sleeping rough. A presentation was held by the student council to demonstrate the importance of helping those less fortunate and who may not have somewhere to live or eat.

A student who showcased her excellent musical talents was also presented with an award.

Dayan Chumburidze, 16, gave a beautiful rendition of *Warrior's Song* by Stephen Heller on the piano and captivated the audience with her ability. The GCSE student then went on to collect her certificate for her regular attendance and contribution to concerts and events including judging the recent *DLD's Got Talent* show.

College principal Rachel Borland said: "The entertainment has been exceptional. Every year we say it couldn't get better and every year it does."



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Advertisement feature

Make 2017 memorable

IT'S the time of year when New Year's resolutions tend to turn from hopeful dreams to forgotten memories.

But if you're looking for the perfect way to beat the January blues, there's no shortage of exciting health, fitness and beauty experiences to keep your personal goals for 2017 bang on track.

Still struggling to shift the extra pounds put on over the Christmas break? Nursing a holiday hangover and feeling underwhelmed by the cold, wet weather? Or even finding it tough to get inspired during the miserable month of January?

Then now's the time to put the wheels in motion for a new you in 2017.

At the start of each year we often make resolutions to find a new job, spend more time with our friends and family or get back in the dating game.

But by far the most popular promise we make to our-



Try a new hairstyle, a spa day or have a massage this new year

selves when the New Year comes around is to focus on our health and fitness.

It's not just joining the gym or going for a run that can help to make us feel better at this time of year, though.

Simply being good to ourselves - trying out a new hairstyle, enjoying a spa day, having a massage or relaxing the mind through yoga - can

have a huge impact on our overall wellbeing and help to keep us focused on those all-important targets for 2017.

By finding the right fit for you, there's no reason why your New Year's resolution has to be a struggle at all - and it could just give you the boost you need to make 2017 a year to remember.

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Notting Hill Carnival's future 'in mayor's hands'

BY GEOFF BAKER

geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE future of the Notting Hill Carnival is now solely in the hands of just one man – Sadiq Khan.

That is the clear message of the in-depth and exhaustive report on Europe's biggest street festival published by the London Assembly, which states that now the mayor of London should "get a grip" on the carnival which Kensington and Chelsea councillors, Westminster Council, the organising trust, the Met, the local MP and residents have all failed to control properly.

The Assembly's in-depth report, *Notting Hill Carnival – Safer And Better*, reveals that the festival which attracts more than one million people has become far too big an event for it to remain any longer in the demonstrably incapable hands of local authorities and organisers.

The carnival, which for 50 years has been lauded as a community event, is now set to become a London event, with mayor Mr Khan at the helm of it.

While praising the great work and tireless efforts of Carnival Trust chairman Pepe Francis and his tiny team of organisers, the report makes it clear that a massive cash infusion – possibly up to £10 million – is now needed from the Mayor's Office in order to prevent the ostensibly joyous and celebratory event further descending into a dangerous and overcrowded orgy of disorder, drug-taking and violence which puts public safety at risk.

With more than 60 bands, 50,000 performers, 7,000 police officers, 2,000 stewards and the number of revellers equalling the population of Birmingham, the carnival, the report warns, "is now at tipping point".

Add to that the 396 crimes committed last year, the 90 arrests for possession of weapons, the 151 attacks on people, the more than 1,000 casualties treated and the stabbings which very nearly resulted in four deaths and it is easy to see why the London Assembly members warn that the carnival now "risks people's safety and its reputation".

The report by the Assembly's police and crime committee states that one option for Mr Khan to consider is to restructure the current free-for-all on the lines of London's New Year's Eve fireworks – with paid ticketing for the event and limiting the number of tickets.

"One of the most obvious risks for the carnival is overcrowding. This is made all the more acute because of the carnival's high attendance figures and its street-



The two faces of Notting Hill Carnival, which attracts more than one million people

based location. Very few other events in London are comparable to the carnival in this respect," says the report.

"For too long we have repeated the debate about what might need to change about the carnival, with little action taken. It is becoming more and more apparent that the status quo is not an option. The mayor and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime are well placed to help carnival organisers get a grip on public safety at the carnival: there is proven success with enhancing public safety at events such as the New Year fireworks."

Limiting the numbers of people permitted to attend the carnival is an option that was floated to the Assembly committee by the Met – but this has been opposed as impractical by members of the Labour group of Kensington and Chelsea councillors, one of the many bodies involved in the carnival whose squabbling over the festival has now led to the intervention of London's lead authority, the GLA.

"Even if you could somehow cordon off the large carnival boundary, ticketing would be a step towards making the carnival a commercial event, for which the Carnival Trust would have to pay full policing costs, and there seems no prospect of that possibility for the foreseeable future," said the Labour group. "Since this would effectively be the end of the carnival as we know it today and very probably finally divorce it from its roots of the Afro-Caribbean community's reaction to the 1958 race riots, we believe this cannot be considered".

But funding from the Mayor's Office could cover the £7 million policing bill and, the crime committee urges, provide the money needed by organisers, the London Notting Hill Carnival Enterprises Trust, to hire of many more stewards who would be given greater powers.

"Unfortunately, the LNH CET suffers from a lack of support and capacity to deliver. It is run by volunteers, with little funding or staffing resource," the report states.

"It has come a long way and we congratulate its members who work so hard to make the carnival happen every year. It admits, however, that it still struggles and it is now time to provide it with a greater level of support.

"The mayor should now provide advice and guidance to the LNH CET to help put it on a more formal and financially sustainable footing. This will in turn improve its ability to deliver a safer and more secure carnival.

"LNHCET hopes that more stewarding will help the event become more self-sustainable... the role of the stewards may need to be further developed..."

The driving philosophy around stewarding at the carnival is to reduce the reliance on the police. We welcome any steps that will release officers from tasks that can be carried out equally well by others. This will help the Met to refocus efforts on tackling crime and disorder, something that is increasingly important given the recent rise in serious and violent crime."

And Steve O'Connell, chairman of the police committee,

said: "We must not shut our ears to the concerns being raised. We need to improve the arrangements for safety and crime reduction at the carnival so that its success becomes the headline story, not its crime and disorder. The answer lies in giving those in charge of the carnival greater responsibility, ownership, capacity and capability to make the carnival a success and make sure it remains what it set out to be: a celebration of an exuberant culture.

"The London Notting Hill Carnival Enterprises Trust has come a long way but admits that it struggles. It cannot be right that the group organising one of London's most high-profile events is staffed by volunteers and is not receiving the support it needs."

Mr Khan is expected to report back with his proposals for the future of the carnival in May.

In the meantime, the last word from the report should be that of Mr Francis, chairman of the organisers, who told the police committee: "Yes, I am very concerned under my watch that something disastrous could happen in the carnival."

"Ladbroke Grove worries me when we come up there on an evening, especially if we get there after 7pm, which I tend to try to not do, trying to get there before to make sure that we are all safe.

"I am open to any change that will improve the health and safety of people."

"If change has to come, change has to come. However, change has to come with proper dialogue and very good discussion and planning."

Animal charity lobbies MPs over better protection for greyhounds

BATTERSEA Dogs & Cats Home has lobbied Parliament for better protection of greyhounds.

Representatives from the world-famous animal charity have met with MPs to discuss the needs of racing greyhounds and what needs to be done to better protect and safeguard their wellbeing.

At the meeting chaired by MP Angela Smith, a member of the environment, food and rural affairs select committee and the welfare member of the Greyhound Forum, Battersea chiefs pushed for changes in the law.

"In 2016 alone, Battersea took in 95 unwanted, ex-racing greyhounds. The conditions in which greyhounds are kept, and in which they arrive at Battersea, can vary wildly, and the home is involved with campaigning to promote and monitor standards for racing and post-racing greyhounds across Britain," said a spokesman.

Battersea's director of operations, Peter Laurie, said: "The current Welfare of Racing Greyhounds Regulations 2010 have delivered some important improvements. However, we believe there's much more to do.

"This is why we were so disappointed when the government's review last year did not propose additional requirements to address remaining areas of concern.

"We're asking for the 2010 regulations to be amended to make it mandatory for the industry to publish welfare data relating to injury, euthanasia and rehoming or retirement numbers.

"These regulations should also cover trainers' kennels, which aren't properly monitored, and yet are where greyhounds spend 95 per cent of their time.

"Battersea works closely with other greyhound welfare charities, and is an active member of the Greyhound Forum. As a result, we're pleased to take in many ex-racers, who are lovely dogs and make wonderful pets in the right environment. As with all our residents, we're committed to ensuring they go to the right homes with responsible new owners."

Current greyhounds at Battersea searching for their forever homes include Jason, an 18-month-old ex-racer. He is described as "friendly and affectionate with both humans and other dogs – he loves to curl up and snooze the day away".

The spokesman said: "There is also beautiful brown-and-white 18-month-old Blitz and his kennelmate, four-year-old Beauty, who can be rehomed separately or as a pair. Both affectionate and eager for a fuss, these two would enjoy home comforts for the first time."



Blitz and Beauty are in search of a home

Dirty air blamed for violent crime

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

SCIENTISTS have made a shock new explanation for the surge in violence across the city – the dirty air.

Following recent research which revealed that pollution increases the risk of dementia, now another study suggests that London's toxic air may also be the link to the rise in violent attacks.

US researchers studying how air pollution affects the brain say it could contribute to violent crime and now leading clean air campaigner Caroline Pidgeon says it is "vital" that the Mayor of London orders an urgent investigation into whether the capital's filthy air, already causing the deaths of up to 10,000 a year by worsening lung and heart conditions, is responsible for the rise in violence in the capital too.

According to research by Evan Herrenstorf of Harvard University and Erich Muehlegger of the University of California, there's something in the air which could be making people turn nasty.

Comparing more than two million crimes reported to the Chicago Police Department over a 12-year period with pollution data, the researchers found no correlation between air quality and property crimes such as burglary and robbery.

However, violent crimes, including murder, rape and assault, rose 2.2 per cent in areas dealing with increased air pollution.

"This discrepancy across crime types may suggest that the primary mechanism is physiological; that is,



the pollution might make people more irritable and impulsive, thus leading to more violent crime," claim the researchers.

In their research paper Air Pollution And Criminal Activity the scientists say "This paper provides the first quasi-experimental evidence that air pollution causally affects criminal activity. Consistent with evidence from psychology on the relationship between pollution and aggression, the effect is unique to violent crimes – we find no effect of pollution on the commission of property crime."

Critics of the study have suggested that aggression could have been caused by lead in petrol as lead poisoning is associated with attention

deficit disorder, impulsiveness, aggression and, according to one paper, psychopathic behaviour.

However, lead was banned in fuel in the US on January 1 1996, six years before the air pollution study began.

The US findings tie in with official statistics for London, where last week City Hall issued a toxic air red alert in eight boroughs, including Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea and Hammersmith and Fulham.

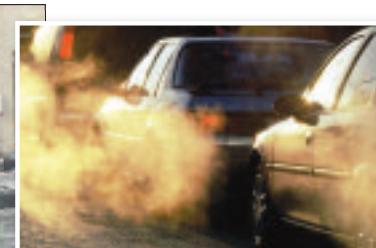
As the city's air quality has increasingly worsened in recent years, burglary rates have not increased but incidents of violent attacks have soared.

In Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea, named by Public Health England in December as London's

two worst blackspots for air pollution, violence is on the increase whereas burglary is not.

Figures from the Met reveal that in the 12 months to November 2016, reports of some 7,769 violent attacks in Westminster rose by 11.5 per cent compared to the previous year. But reports of residential burglary fell by three per cent. In heavily-polluted Kensington and Chelsea, incidents of violence rose by four per cent in 2015-Member2016, with 3,303 attacks up from 3,177, but burglary fell by 9.7 per cent to 953 incidents in the 12 months to November 2016.

Now calls have gone out to Mayor of London Sadiq Khan to launch City Hall's own research to discover if the



Caroline Pidgeon, a leading campaigner on air pollution, said there was a growing body of evidence which suggested a direct connection between dirty air and violence

capital's increasingly-deteriorating air quality is linked to the increase in violence.

Caroline Pidgeon, the Liberal Democrat member of the GLA's General Assembly and a leading campaigner on air pollution, said: "The link between pollution and violent behaviour might seem far-fetched, but there is a growing body of evidence which suggests there is a direct connection."

"Understanding the possible connection between air pollution and violent crime is vital if we are to tackle both these scourges that face the capital. The Mayor of London is not only the elected Police Commissioner but he also has a legal responsibility to tackle health inequalities in the capital. On both these grounds the Mayor should not hesitate in ensuring the potential link between air pollution and violent crime is properly investigated."

Witnesses to killing 'should do decent thing'



Salim Coulter

THE police chief leading the hunt for Salim Coulter's killer has urged witnesses to "do the right thing" and come forward with information after detectives made three more arrests.

DCI Noel McHugh renewed his appeal for anyone with information to help police track down the gunman.

Salim, 24, of White City, was shot outside Jerky's restaurant in Walham Grove, Fulham, last month.

Detectives have launched a wide-ranging investigation and have made several appeals for evidence and information.

Last week a 22-year-old man was arrested, on suspicion of murder, as he boarded a plane for Algeria at Heathrow Airport. Officers also apprehended a 23-year-old man and a 20-year-old man on suspicion of the same offence.

All three remained in police custody last week as Met chiefs stepped up their inquiries.

It comes a month after police arrested and charged 30-year-old Omar Hutson with Salim's murder.

DCI McHugh, who is leading the investigation, said: "While one man has been charged and a further three arrested, we still need to speak to everyone who witnessed events on the day of Salim's murder and to everyone who may have any knowledge of his fatal shooting."

"We have spoken to a number of people so far but I believe there are still more people out there that can help us with our investigation, and I am urging those people to do the right thing and to speak to us."

Anyone with information can contact police on 020 8785 8099 or 101.

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Points of view

OPINION

HERE in London we pride ourselves on our principles of tolerance and understanding. We live, after all, in the most diverse and multicultural city on the planet – a fact of which we should all be proud.

Most of us live in perfect harmony and demonstrate to the rest of the world every day how we can all prosper by pulling together. Sadly, however, it is the actions of a vocal minority that often warp our understanding of community relations.

This week we again report on incidents of vile racial hatred targeting members of the Muslim faith.

In Hammersmith a woman wearing a hijab was screamed at and spat on as she sat in a restaurant and ate fish and chips. Only days later a man from Fulham was sentenced for orchestrating a campaign of hate promoting white supremacist views and Islamophobic rhetoric.

It is barely six months since thousands of people marched through the streets of the borough in the name of unity after spiteful xenophobic graffiti was scrawled across the Polish Social and Cultural Association building in Hammersmith in the wake of the Brexit vote.

Hammersmith and Fulham council is to be commended for the strong and active stance it has taken against these racist attacks.

But as Nahella Ashraf argues on the front page of our Hammersmith edition today, we should be prepared to confront more of these outrages in the months to come.

We cannot leave all the work to our community leaders. The onus must be on all of us to stand up to bigots when they publicise their intolerance.

The diversity and mix of faiths in London should be the mast to which we nail our colours.

Now more than ever it is essential that we fight for the freedoms we once took for granted.



Ill-judged attack on 4x4 drivers

YOUR recent article announcing a war on 4x4s in a bid to improve the dreadful air quality of much of Kensington and Chelsea not only unfairly scapegoats SUV drivers but it is also ill-judged.

Although it has long been accepted that 4x4s do indeed "gas guzzle", one cannot just lay the blame for the pollution of the royal borough on those who have worked hard to afford such vehicles – what about the pollution caused by the incessant stream of builders' trucks and HGVs which residents have had to endure for years now?

Not only do big lorries represent a far more intimidating presence than 4x4s to other road-users, in particular cyclists, they are hardly the greenest of vehicles and I would contend that they have been responsible for worsening much of the bad air quality during the recent boom in development of many K&C properties.

Lord only knows how bad the builders will make things when lorries and tipper trucks are hurtling up the King's Road once the controversial development for the new Chelsea Crossrail begins. I should imagine that we shall all be choking on the pavements and will be forced to shop wearing masks.

RBKC Council takes air pollution very seriously and it is to be commended for its pioneering scheme to plant hedging alongside busy roads in order to absorb many of the noxious fumes. Perhaps this inspired idea could now be extended with hedges running up the centre of all of the borough's most polluted routes? A two-mile wall of privet running the length of the King's Road would be most welcome.

Mrs B Chambers
Chelsea

Advice on staying healthy in winter

ONE of the most effective ways to keep yourself well during winter is to stay warm.

Keeping warm over the winter months can help prevent colds, flu or more serious health conditions such as heart attacks, pneumonia and depression.

Cold homes have a significant impact on your health, so it is important to keep your home warm as well as your body. As temperatures continue to drop it is vital we all look after ourselves and our families in the right ways.

The chances of becoming



Drivers of 4x4s are unfairly being made scapegoats for air pollution in Kensington and Chelsea, according to correspondent Mrs B Chambers



unwell over this period are higher if you're vulnerable to cold-related illnesses because of one or more of the following: you're over 65; you're on a low income and can't afford heating; you have a long-term health condition, such as heart, lung or kidney disease; you are disabled.

If you are 65 or over, have reduced mobility, or have a health condition, you should heat your home to at least 18C. Make sure you also wear enough clothes to stay warm.

If you're under 65 and

healthy and active, you can safely have your house cooler than 18C if you're comfortable with this temperature. You can also use a hot water bottle to keep warm whilst in bed.

Food is a vital source of energy, which helps keep your body warm. If possible try to make sure you have hot meals at least once a day and hot drinks regularly throughout the day.

It is well known that exercise is good for your overall health but it can also be efficient in keeping

Have your say
Email Jack Dixon
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Dr Tim Spicer
Hammersmith and Fulham
Clinical Commissioning
Group chairman

your letters and emails

Mental health must be priority

IT'S important to see the Prime Minister talking about mental health and it shows how far we have come in bringing the experiences of people with mental-health problems up the political agenda.

Mental health should be at the heart of government, and at the heart of society and communities – it's been on the periphery for far too long.

We welcome the announcements around a focus on prevention in schools and workplaces, and support for people in crisis.

The proof will be in the difference it makes to the day-to-day experience of the one in four who will experience a mental-health problem this year.

Mental health is everyone's business and we need to see sustained leadership to make sure services and support improve for all of us with mental-health problems. It has been neglected for decades – we need to see it made a priority for decades to come to make sure everyone with mental-health problems can live the life they want to lead.

Paul Farmer
Mind chief executive

Apprentices mean cheap workforce

TO continue to thrive, London's businesses and workforce need the skills to drive the economy forward. But there are significant gaps in the skills required to do this, notably in construction and the creative industries.

Apprenticeships are widely viewed as a solution to London's skills crisis; a crisis which may worsen in the context of Brexit. They should also provide an alternative route to decent and well-paid, skilled employment opportunities.

The government's commitment to an apprenticeship levy and the new mayoral administration in London offers an opportunity to make sure apprenticeships in London do both of these things. It is vital this opportunity is not squandered.

The traditional view of apprenticeships is that of school leavers being taken on by a business to learn a trade. The reality is very different with around half of apprenticeships in London being carried out by over-25s, many "apprenticeships" effectively constituting in-work training for those already employed. All too many apprenticeships do not lead to permanent,



The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are campaigning for an end to the stigmatising of the mentally ill – and the chief executive of Mind says that mental health must be made a priority by government for decades to come

quality employment and there is still evidence that some apprenticeships are effectively a means for some employers to access cheap labour.

Unlike in other countries, such as Germany, apprenticeships remain comparatively low-status in the UK. Some of the apprentices that committee members met at an informal round table told us how they had been actively discouraged by schools and families from taking up apprenticeships. This is due to no small part to the low pay and low-skilled nature of too many apprenticeships.

For the status of apprenticeships to change, and for them to be a viable route to up-skilling London's workforce and an affordable option for potential apprentices, this needs to change.

Within existing apprenticeships there are particular issues of diversity and equality of opportunity, outcomes and pay levels. Apprentices and those from black and ethnic-minority background are more likely to work in the low-paid health and retail sectors, while male apprentices dominate construction and engineering.

Male apprentices get paid 21 per cent more per hour – and 16 per cent of women report being out of work at the end of their apprenticeship, compared to six per cent of men.

Progress in making apprenticeships a genuine route into work for people with disabilities has also been too slow. The focus on numbers of apprenticeships rather than quality and outcomes masks a widening inequality and unfairness within the apprenticeship system.

The Skills for London taskforce can play a significant role in improving the apprenticeship offer in London and should consider how hurdles experienced by women, disabled people and

those from a BME background can be overcome particularly by exploring the feasibility of flexible and part-time apprenticeships.

Over the next few years, there is an opportunity to give the concept of apprenticeships a new lease of life and use them both to benefit London and the Londoners who take up apprenticeships.

Fiona Twycross AM
London Assembly economy committee chairman

Poorest are being hit the hardest

AS you report, Hammersmith and Fulham council is freezing its share of our council-tax bills this year. But I'm afraid our total council-tax bill will rise for the first time in 11 years.

That is because the new mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, is increasing the precept by 1.5 per cent – which is £4.02p for those on band D.

Back in 2006 the then-Labour council increased its share by another 1.5 per cent (on top of much bigger increases in earlier years) for the coming financial year. The then-mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, increased his precept by 13.3 per cent. The upshot was that the total bill for a band-D household went up from £1,158 to £1,206.

In 2006 the Conservatives were elected and cut the council tax by three per cent in the following financial year, 2007-08. Then by another three per cent for 2008-09, then another three per cent for 2009-10, then by another three per cent for 2010-11. A pattern was starting to emerge.

There was a freeze in 2011-12 but then a cut of 3.7 per cent in 2012-13, another three per cent in 2013-14 and another cut of three per cent in 2014-15.

For the couple of years the reduction in bills was

unfortunately partially offset by Mr Livingstone's tax hikes (he put up the precept by 5.3 per cent in 2007-08 and another two per cent in 2008-09.) But in 2008 Boris Johnson became mayor of London and for his eight years at City Hall the precept was frozen and then cut.

Labour won control of Hammersmith and Fulham in 2014 promising to cut council tax at a faster rate than the Conservatives managed. Each year the Labour group leader Cllr Stephen Cowan had stood up saying that the three per cent council tax cut did not go far enough.

But in 2015-16 he only managed a one per cent cut, then in 2016-17 a freeze. However we still enjoyed a fall in our bill for 2016-17 because in his final budget as mayor of London, Mr Johnson cut his share – the precept – by 6.4 per cent.

Sometimes people say that the sums involved are trivial. But they are not cumulatively to those on a tight budget. This year the band-D bill is £1,004 – so just over £200 lower than 2006. For some that's the difference between whether they can afford a holiday or not.

Another claim is that it is "impossible" to cut the council tax any further. But in Wandsworth the band-D council tax is £680. In Westminster it is £669. So the increase we will see this year represents a very regrettable change in direction – and one that hits the poorest the hardest.

Cllr Harry Phibbs
(Conservative)
Ravenscourt Park ward

Capital's tech sector is amazing

I AM so proud to be helping our tech sector approach Brexit.

Our great city rightly has a reputation as a world-leading hub for technical

importance to the future of the UK digital economy;

- applying sustained influence to institutions and individuals, in Whitehall, Westminster, Brussels and beyond.

Quite a task but one worth taking on.

I have been excited about tech since writing code for my ZX Spectrum and then writing machine code at university. London's start-up community is vibrant, exciting and dynamic, and it must stay that way.

Of course there will be challenges but by getting Brexit right we will be able to keep the doors open to the best global tech talent and create more jobs, prosperity and opportunities in our city.

A key question will be how those tech firms that do business in other EU countries can continue to enjoy the greatest possible access to other EU countries under a deal, while respecting the result of last year's referendum.

For example, we will need to look at whether companies offering services in the EU will be required to have their data servers physically sited within the EU if they are to carry EU data and sited within the UK to carry UK data.

We will need to consider how we can maximise the flexibility that enables our tech sector to continue to attract customers and talent from all over the world.

On skills, we need to ensure we continue to create our own pool of domestic talent while remaining open to attract the brightest and the best in this sector from across the world, no longer discriminating against those from outside the EU.

As well as the opportunities, these are legitimate concerns for the sector and for London. techUK hopes that we will play our part in ensuring our negotiators do not overlook these concerns when the fine detail of any deal begins to be laid down.

And of course London's tech firms will always have one rather potent card up their sleeve – their ability to innovate.

If ever the politicians, economists and mandarins are struggling to find a solution to a particular problem, my money will be on the tech folk to come up with it.

If and when someone in Brussels or London says "That would be impossible", I expect a tech entrepreneur in Shoreditch to say "Have you tried this?". A tech solution making what some may have deemed impossible, possible.

Syed Kamall
Conservative MEP for London

Forget Brexit – proposed poll could send royals on hustings

FANS of the public being consulted for their say-so by politicos who need their hand held to cross a road will doubtless be knocked out with delight to learn that plans are afoot for yet another furious argument-inciting referendum, this time on the matter of Brexit.

Members of the royalty-wrecking party Republic are quietly planning to push for a referendum on the future of the monarchy the instant that Her Majesty passes over to that realm in the sky.

Although many Brits are fed up to the back teeth with the recent stream of requests of how to govern from those they have already elected to do the job, the popularity of DIY government is set to rear its controversy-inducing head again.

The UK's republican movement is preparing to mount a campaign for a referendum on the monarchy – whether or not to abolish it or to continue with King Charles – when the Queen dies, an event which most of Britain hopes will be many years off.

At a meeting of the Alliance of European Republic Movements in Madrid, Republic's chief executive Graham Smith revealed the drive for a Brexit.

He told anti-monarchy delegates: "When the Queen dies, the moment she is declared dead, Charles is King. So there is no gap. And there is certainly no official plan for a referendum. He is King immediately. The coronation would be about six months later.

"So that will be an opportunity, after the funeral and before the coronation, for us to do some campaigning and say 'Hang on a minute, this is the 21st century, if we are going to have a new head of state then perhaps we want to have a vote'.

"Then if we have that vote, it can't just be 'Do you want Charles?' – it has to be 'Which person do you want?' and it has to be a free and fair election."

These comments follow others by Mr Smith at Republic's annual conference in 2015 against portraying the Queen's death as "an opportunity" for anti-monarchs.

But in Madrid he admitted: "It is an opportunity to campaign but it is not going to be an easy campaign. We



Royal London's idea of how the candidates for the top job might campaign if Republic's proposal for an election to determine who should be head of state comes to fruition

are going have to work hard to get that referendum.

"That (the Queen's death) will make a big difference. In the UK a lot of support for the monarchy is to do with the fact that we have had the same Queen for a very long time and most people can't remember a time when she wasn't on the throne."

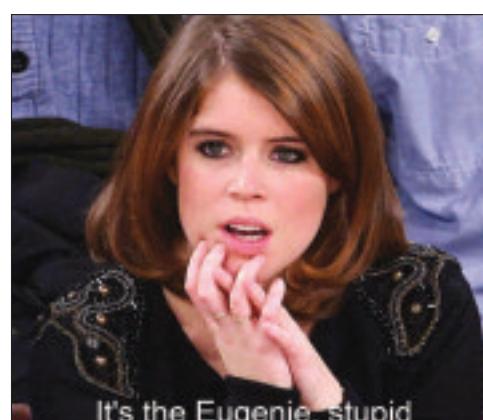
Although Mr Smith said in Madrid "We are going to get to that point where there are no monarchies left in Europe and that's a dream I want to make happen in my lifetime", polls reveal that only 20 per cent of Brits feel the same.

However, in the highly unlikely circumstance that any government should back Republic's drive for a "which person do you want?" Brexit,

chaos and bitter rows could result – as we saw during the independent Scotland referendum and the Brexit vote.

For instance, according to the results of an Ipsos Mori poll of last year, although Her Majesty reigns supreme over all her family in popularity with the public, with an approval rating of 80 per cent, the Prince of Wales scored only 60 per cent – 13 points behind that of Prince William.

Constitutionally the Republic idea could threaten crisis as it has been established for eras that when one monarch passes, the crown then passes to the next in line – not to whoever the public most fancies at the time.



Rexit, Republic is pressing ahead with its drive to unseat the royals by last week launching a new campaign called How To Win The Argument on the matter of monarchy.

On its website it announced: "Republic wants to see the monarchy abolished and the Queen replaced with a democratically elected head of state. We'll win this campaign with clear and concise points and effective responses to the many common and misleading myths put forward in favour of the monarchy."

"Republic has a lot of experience in making effective arguments on air, in the Press and in live debates. But we need to keep the arguments fresh and up to date."

"We'll be developing our arguments throughout 2017 – making sure we can continue to build an effective case for a republic and challenge the myths."

"With each issue we'll be asking for your views, and using your input to shape our arguments."

"We'll be talking about Britain's political system, democratic principles and everything that's wrong about the royal household – and tackling myths about tourism and trade, confusion about the Crown Estates and questions about the future of the Commonwealth."

"This project will give us – and you – the tools to make a stronger case for a republic. The project is starting with a common question that goes right to the heart of our campaign: Why do we need a head of state?"

Further investigation of the site reveals Republic's three-step future plans:

- Becoming a high-profile, household-name organisation that influences public opinion, sets the media agenda and draws active support from politicians of all parties.
- Leading the campaign for a referendum on the monarchy, with a manifesto commitment from one or all of the main parties.
- Our ultimate destination: a referendum resulting in a decisive "yes" in favour of a republic.

Discussion on whether a republic is remotely likely has been interrupted by the need to swat the pig that is flying around the room.

Geoff Baker

Save nearly £5,000 on your version of 'the most famous ring in the world'



THE many Chinese fans of *Royal London* will be delighted to learn that we can save them £4,965 on their apparently feverish purchase of "the most famous ring in the world".

Recent reports have it that royalists from Beijing and Moscow are desperate to own replicas of the engagement ring once given to Diana, Princess of Wales, by Prince Charles. The famous sapphire and diamond ring, now worn by the Duchess of Cambridge, was purchased for an undisclosed sum by Prince Charles in 1981.

Given its history, the ring is now considered priceless but replicas are available and Garrard, the Mayfair jewellers preferred by the Royal Family for almost 300 years, has reportedly been inundated with requests from Chinese and Russian couples for whom it is a must-have gift.

"The Diana Ring is our most popular piece of jewellery," said Joanne Miller, the company's chief executive told *The Daily Telegraph*. "In one week alone in December we had three orders for them, and had to work flat out to make them in time for Christmas."

Although the esteemed jeweller stresses that it would never create nor sell an exact replica of The Diana Ring, which would be bad form, copies start at £5,000, with prices rising for those who require a sapphire of the same size as the original.

The Daily Telegraph cheekily suggested that the Albemarle Street jeweller might be a port of call for Prince Harry, should he wish his squeeze Meghan Markle to one day wear a "Hers and Hers" ring that matched the one worn by the Duchess of Cambridge.

Although we at *Royal London* consider the likelihood of two royal brides wearing a ring of the same design to be somewhat fanciful, if Harry harboured such a bizarre wish then he – and the Chinese buyers – need look no further than his granny's own shop.

For the Royal Collection Shop, the home of official royal gifts and souvenirs commissioned by Buckingham Palace, is currently selling a ring which is remarkably similar to Princess Diana's.

Although it is not quite of the same quality as the original – the Buckingham Palace Sapphire Ring being designed of a "sapphire-coloured stone set with sparkling crystals in a hypoallergenic metal" – the popular item is available at Her Majesty's store at a significant saving, priced just £35.



William heads up children's charity

PRINCE William has stepped forward to lead one of London's most important but lower-profiled charities, the Metropolitan and City Police Orphans Fund.

It is hoped that with the prince behind it, the key charity will achieve more public support and awareness like that which he has brought to his other good causes, which include mental health, conservation and action on addictions.

Every day Londoners trust their lives to the safe hands of the Met – but when tragedy strikes the orphans fund is there to care for those left behind when officers lose their lives or are seriously injured.

"We are proud and delighted to announce that HRH the Duke of Cambridge has agreed to be the patron of our charity beginning this month," said a spokesman for the fund.

The Orphans Fund began in 1870 as an orphanage, which we believe makes it the oldest police charity in the world. In 2020 we will be marking the 150th anniversary. The orphanage closed in 1937 and became the present fund, which makes 2017 the 80th year.

"We hope to mark these occasions with functions for the orphans and their families who are children of deceased or severely injured Metropolitan and City police officers.

"It is especially pleasing the Prince William will be our patron at the time of these anniversaries. Our first royal patron was Queen Victoria and we are privileged that the charity's links with the Royal Family are to continue.

The charity is mainly funded by the interest and dividends from the money that was invested when the orphanage was sold, by a percentage of the contributions serving officers make to the Metropolitan and City Police Benevolent Funds and public donations.

In 2015 it was able to give more than £1 million to the kids of deceased colleagues. To back the fund, go to met-city-orphans.24sq.com.



Princess' kindness celebrated

DIANA, Princess of Wales once urged: "Carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectation of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you."

Therefore it is fitting that in the year which marks the 20th anniversary of her death, she is to be remembered with National Kindness Day.

The Diana Award, the charity established by the government in order to continue her excellent work, is to run the big day on a date in March in order to inspire new generations by the example of the queen of compassion.

The charity has also announced a special Legacy Award marking the 20th anniversary of the death of the princess – a project which has the support of her sons The Duke of Cambridge and Prince Harry.

"This award will be presented to 20 exceptional young people, aged nine to 18, from across the world for their selfless commitment to transforming the lives of others across the world at a special Legacy Ceremony in May," said a spokesman for the charity which is committed to fostering change through practical action with young people.

"These young people will be selected from a poll of nominations by an independent judging panel chaired by Dame Julia Clevedon, founder of Step Up To Serve."

As well as receiving the Legacy Award, recipients will have access to a unique development programme which will provide them with the opportunity to enhance their skills in four key areas – leadership, community develop-

ment, social entrepreneurship and technology for good.

"As the search begins for these exceptional young people who embody the late princess' qualities of compassion, kindness and service, The Diana Award calls out to communities and groups across the world to nominate a young person, who is deserving of such honour. The deadline for nominations is Friday March 17," said the spokesman for the charity which has trained 21,500 anti-bullying ambassadors, awarded 47,000 who are making a difference to the lives of others and has trained and mentored 2,000 young people.

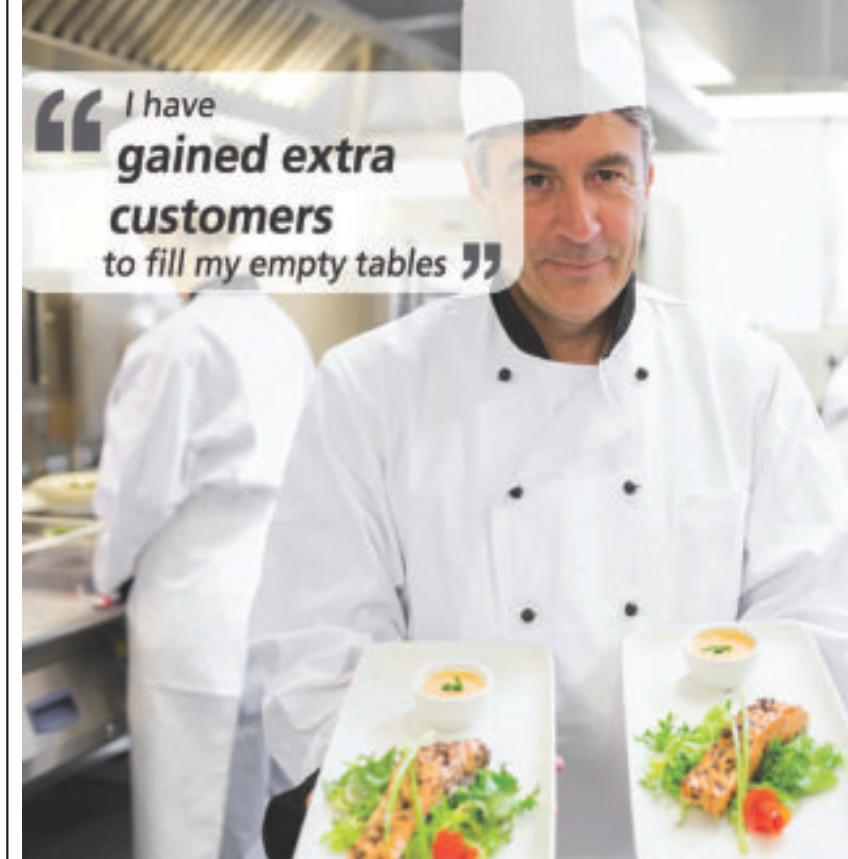
Visit diana-award.org.uk to nominate someone for a Legacy Award.

Tessy Ojo, chief executive of The Diana Award said: "Diana, Princess of Wales is widely remembered for her values of compassion, kindness and service to others, irrespective of their culture, race or background.

"Twenty years since her death it's heartening to know that her legacy lives on through the lives of thousands of young people across the world.

"Our theme for this 20th anniversary year is centred on Princess Diana's values of kindness, compassion and service. We know there are truly exceptional young people across the world who deserve to be recognised. We urge the public to nominate them for The Diana Award."

The Diana Award will also be launching a commemorative website celebrating Princess Diana's legacy – dianaslegacy.co.uk – and members of the public will be invited to add their thoughts and memories of the much-missed great woman to the website.



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Pictures: Mikael Buck/More Th>n



A SIGHTSEEING experience like no other took to the streets of Central London last week with the launch of a brand new bus tour – for dogs.

Man's best friend was behind the wheel as the K9 double decker stopped at Downing Street and Buckingham Palace on its whirlwind trip.

The route also took in some of the capital's best dog-walking spots as it passed Hyde Park, Green Park and Kensington Palace Gardens.

Dog owners and their pampered pooches were treated to the free ride to celebrate the launch of insurance company More Th>n's Doggyssentials pet-care service.

On the buses – pooch-style



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Kensal Library	20 Golborne Road		W10 5PF
North Kensington Library	108 Ladbroke Grove	Kensington	W11 1PZ
Brompton Library	210 Old Brompton Road	London	SW5 0BS
The Tabernacle, Notting Hill	35 Powis Square	Notting Hill	W11 2AY
Chelsea Library	Chelsea Old Town Hall	Chelsea	SW3 5EZ
Chelsea Sports Centre	Chelsea Manor Street	Chelsea	SW3 5PL
Portobello Rd Market Office	72 Tavistock Road		W11 1AN

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Annexe Lib. & Neighbourhood Ctr	North End Crescent		W14 8TG
Fulham Good Neighbours	70 Rosalind Road		SW6 7QT

Hammersmith Chronicle		pick up points	
The Grove Neighbourhood Centre	7 Bradmore Park Road	Hammersmith	W6 0DT
Hammersmith Library	Shepherd's Bush Road		W6 7AT

Shepherd's Bush Chronicle		pick up points	
Westfield Library	6 Wood Lane		W12 7BF
Askey Road Library	87-91 Askey Road		W12 9AS

Theatres offering more chances of a career in spotlight

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDON theatres are offering new apprenticeships to young people seeking careers in the spotlight.

The London Theatre Consortium of 14 leading theatres has announced plans for a fourth year of its apprenticeship programme offering up to a further 12 apprenticeships across the group this year.

In a new development, the LTC will work with the National College for the Creative and Cultural Industries to offer the apprenticeship qualifications and will pilot a new apprenticeship training hub at the Lyric Hammersmith.

The announcement comes as the consortium published a new report on the programme's first three years which sets out how an investment of £800,000 has created 56 entry-level apprenticeships into theatre across a broad range of disciplines including technical theatre, costume, community arts, venue operations, producing and administration.

"The report shows how apprenticeships can help arts organisations to diversify their workforces and to create new routes into a career in theatre," said a spokesman for the consortium.

"Sixty two per cent of apprentices to date have been from non-white-British backgrounds and 27 per cent have a disability, most hidden."

"The programme was also effective in reaching people from socioeconomic backgrounds that are not currently well represented in theatre staff teams."

"All apprentices were paid at least the adult National Minimum Wage, regardless of their age, to make sure that no-one was barred from taking a role for financial reasons."

As well as college and workplace training towards an accredited qualification, apprentices were given mentoring support, help to plan their careers and next steps, and provided with opportunities to build their contacts and networks.

Of 48 apprentices, 23 have gone on to further employment in the arts and 11 will shortly complete their level-two qualifications.

"Apprentices reported that their self-confidence, organisational skills and work readiness improved enormously. Employers reported that managing an apprentice had

encouraged them to reconsider their standard working practices to support better inclusivity and access," said the spokesman.

The programme has been co-funded by CCSkills' Creative Employment Programme, AGE, City Bridge Foundation, LTC employers and the LTC itself.

LTC director Emma Rees said: "We worked really hard to find talented young people who we don't usually hear from when we are recruiting."

"Almost everyone working in the arts will say at some point that they owe their position to someone who saw something in them and believed in them. That's brilliant if you're there to be 'spotted' but impossible if you'd never find yourself in that position in the first place."

"We decided we needed to be proactive and to go out and look for talent and potential – and we found it."

Sam Maynard, education manager of Donmar Warehouse, said: "Working with apprentices makes me question a lot of practice that is taken as read within the organisation, and I think that is a really good thing for the culture of an organisation."

Sian Alexander, executive director of the Lyric Hammersmith, said: "The cultural sector is a real UK success story in terms of growth and economic development and London is one of the most multi-cultural cities in the world, yet the workforce of the theatre sector is still under-representative of London's diversity."

"From the start, we have seen this collaborative programme as an important way to diversify the workforce, to reach and train young people from backgrounds that are currently underrepresented in the theatre sector."

"Working together has been key to this. I don't think the London theatres could have embraced apprenticeships on the scale that they have, and with the success they have, if it hadn't been for that collaborative approach, as part of the London Theatre Consortium."

"Although the funding climate makes it harder now, we are committed to continuing to work together to maintain the momentum we have achieved and to create open and accessible opportunities for talented young people from all backgrounds in our theatres."

Recruitment for the fourth year of apprenticeships has now begun, with apprenticeships starting in March 2017.



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Talk of the town

Dancing strictly on limits for Ore

After triumphantly lifting the Glitterball Trophy as the winner of *Strictly Come Dancing* late last year, BBC Sport presenter Ore Oduba has got the bug for ballroom and is about to embark on the live UK tour, which will visit London next month, writes Nicky Sweetland.

The 31-year-old broadcaster is astonished that alongside his partner, World Show Dance champion Joanne Clifton, he won the coveted title, and said: "I was that shocked. I didn't think, for a second of the whole series, we could win. It wasn't why I'd signed up to do the show and even after all of it, the intention was just to have an amazing time. By the end of the final I was just beaming because I'd had one of the best experiences of my life."

Oduba grew up in Wimborne, Dorset, and had virtually no dancing experience before the challenge of taking part in the Saturday night hit television programme.

He laughs and tells me: "I think there's a club in Bournemouth called Elements and I spent a few nights in there, but otherwise my experience of dancing was slim to nought and only in freestyle."

"I danced at my wedding but none of the shapes had any sort of mirroring of Latin and ballroom. I wouldn't have wanted to embarrass myself on the *Strictly* dance floor with any of that. I didn't have any experience, so for me doing *Strictly* was the opportunity to learn to dance from the best in the world."

Joanne is currently starring in the tour of the musical *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and so Ore will dance with her sister-in-law, Karen Clifton, for the stage spectacular.

"I'm just so lucky to have gone from having one incredible woman as my dance partner to another. It's a cliché to say, but I felt like I was part of the family from day one."

Ore said: "It's been a seamless transition from one Clifton to another. Karen is similarly just so clever, a



Nicky Sweetland and Ore Oduba dance their way through this week's interview

truly inspirational dancer, and I'm loving now being in her arms. Of course I miss Jo, like you would with any friend, but I want her to be happy and I know she is so happy doing musical theatre. She's a star and she's going to fly."

The tour will also feature the other two finalists from the 2016 series, Louise Redknapp and Danny Mac, as well as Daisy Lowe, Lesley Joseph and former chancellor Ed Balls, who will be grooving along to *Gangnam Style* once again.

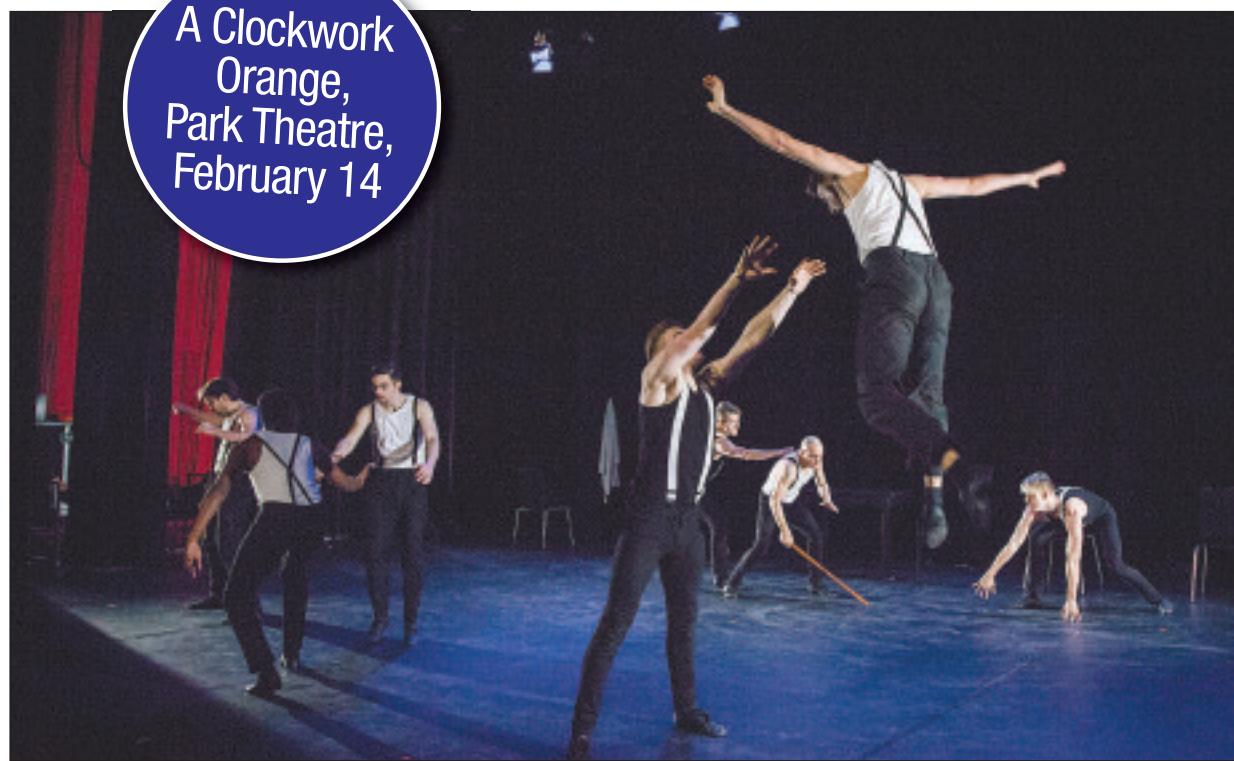
The troop of acclaimed professional dancers will also join the cast for the festival of dance, which will be judged and commented on by Anita Rani, Karen Hardy, the show's producer Craig Revel Horwood and the now retired head judge Len Goodman.

There promises to be some spectacular group numbers as well as dances, which will be very familiar to fans of the television show.

Ore tells me: "We are doing numbers that the audiences will have seen before. There are a couple of changes, but I'll keep the surprise. We are doing numbers that I love doing and I can't wait to do them again and I can't wait to show people on an even bigger stage."

The Strictly Come Dancing Live Tour will culminate in performances on February 9 and 10 at the SSE Arena Wembley and on February 11 and 12 at The O2. For further details, visit www.strictlycomedancinglive.com

A Clockwork Orange, Park Theatre, February 14



A Clockwork Orange opens at Park Theatre on February 14

ACTION To The Word's award-winning all-male production of Anthony Burgess' *A Clockwork Orange*, directed by Alexandra Spencer-Jones, will return to London following its acclaimed premiere in Edinburgh in 2011 and an international tour.

Billed as an electrifying and testosterone filled physical theatre horror show that exquisitely captures and transcends the spirit of Burgess' original literary masterpiece, *A Clockwork Orange* lures its audience into the glorious glass-edged nastiness of Manchester's underworld. A playtime of orgiastic ultraviolence and sexuality, it's the story of little Alex and the Droogs in their battle against the tedium of adolescence. An unapologetic celebration of the human

condition, it remains as terrifyingly relevant today as when the book was published in 1962 and when Stanley Kubrick's film caused a stir in 1971.

Jonno Davies will return to the production to star as 'Alex', having played the role previously on two international tours. Other stage credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (National Theatre/Latitude), *Dracula* (Arts Theatre/International tour) and *Shakespeare in Love* (Noel Coward). His screen credits include *Milk and Honey*, *Kingsman: The Secret Service*, *Spotless* and *Hollyoaks*.

He is joined on stage by Luke Baverstock, Sebastian Charles, Simon Cotton, Damien Hasson, Philip Honeywell, James Smoker, Will Stokes and Tom Whitelock.

A Clockwork Orange is directed by Alexandra Spencer-Jones, artistic director for Action to the Word, for which she has created *Dracula* (Arts Theatre/International Tour), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (National Theatre/Latitude Festival) and *Constance and Sinistra and the Cabinet of Screams* (New Wimbledon Theatre/Latitude Festival).

Spencer-Jones said: "In a world where the pillars of leadership are crashing down around us, Burgess' timeless masterpiece brought to stage is more urgent than ever. There will always be a disaffected youth who are not listened to."

A Clockwork Orange opens at Park Theatre on February 14 and plays until March 18. For further information, you can visit the website

Here's proof it's a mad, mad, Maddix world

COMEDIAN Jamali Maddix will bring his critically acclaimed unflinchingly funny debut hour, *Chickens Come Home To Roost*, to the Soho Theatre next month following a sold-out run in Edinburgh.

The creator of his own Viceland show, *Hate Thy Neighbour*, is an exciting new talent that over the last 18 months has cemented his path to worldwide success. The young comedian, whose many fans include Spike Jonze, takes a dark, frank and honest look at life through the eyes of a self-confessed miscreant, whose upbringing, friends and family have given him a distinctly considered and shrewd outlook on issues of race, economics and the law.

In a show based on personal choices and the salvation of a past life, Jamali is now trying to



Jamali Maddix is heading for the Soho Theatre next month

deviate away from his trouble-making days to become something akin to vaguely respectable as he considers his current lifestyle against those of his peers, and how different opportunities and choices can lead to extremely different outcomes. His natural confidence and charm allow him to tread

gracefully across more sensitive topics, leaving many of his contemporaries behind.

Jamali has also appeared on some of the most popular TV panel shows, including *Live at the Apollo*, *8 out of 10 Cats* and *The John Bishop Show*, as well as being one of the faces for the Viceland TV channel with his

own series, *Hate Thy Neighbour*. Other TV credits include *Alan Davies As Yet Untitled* (BBC), *Safe Word* (ITV2) and *Live At The Comedy Store* (Comedy Central).

Within his first two years of performing, Jamali won the Comedy Café New Act of the Year Competition and the Chortle Student Comedy Award, and at the 2015 Edinburgh Fringe he joined a long list of comedy stars as part of the prestigious *Pleasance Comedy Reserve*. Since then he has supported Jim Jefferies at London's Hyde Park and has performed at many of the UK's biggest festivals, including Bestival, Altitude, Camp Bestival and Latitude.

Jamali Maddix will be at the Soho Theatre from February 27 until March 4. For more information, visit the website www.sohoteatre.com

Talk of the town

APLAY about a terrorist attack in London might not be everyone's idea of an entertaining evening out at the theatre – but Stuart Slade has scored a real triumph with his rom-com-come-tragedy *BU21* at Trafalgar Studio2.

Following an acclaimed run at Theatre503, the play, which focuses on a group of survivors, gets the elements of comedy and tragedy spot on, with a powerful and sometimes gruesome set of tales.

It is told anecdotally by a mishmash of West Londoners.

We are given the news that a plane from New York to London has been blown out of the sky over Fulham by a shoulder-mounted rocket launcher, leaving whole streets and communities felled in its wake.

An office worker has lost her mother, a brash city banker his cheating girlfriend, and a young Asian man his father in a clever twist which ultimately tests our stereotypes.

There is also a victim who has suffered life-changing injuries and a caricatured working-class chav who has gained celebrity status after an appearance on television in the immediate aftermath of the tragedy, alongside a dithering socialite struggling to come to terms with the vision of horror she faced

when one of the victims landed in her back garden. Nothing and no-one is spared the trauma, with all of the repugnant details potently depicted – burned and severed flesh described as "like pulled pork" and a body described as "meat" – but the telling never feels irreverent and instead adds necessary realism to set the tone.

Dan Pick's virtually bare stage, save for some plastic chairs and a tea trolley, further allows the focus to be the story and the impact of the horrific event, with the actors' intricate emotional journey fully exposed with the audience in such close proximity.

Alex Forsyth steals the show as the arrogant, laddish banker, uncomfortably breaking the fourth wall and including audience members in his rantings, while Florence Roberts and Graham O'Mara illustrate the fact that an event of this magnitude doesn't discriminate between class.

Hard-hitting, traumatic yet extremely amusing, *BU21* encapsulates the pessimistic British sense of humour – and with a fictional horror story, which is entirely plausible, it leaves you laughing with a disquieting sense of foreboding.

BU21 runs at Trafalgar Studio2 until February 18. For more details, visit atgtickets.com.



Nicky Sweetland reviews
BU21
at Trafalgar Studio2



An unmissable spectacular



Amaluna – performed by Cirque du Soleil
Royal Albert Hall

I'VE heard great things about Cirque du Soleil but the return of their celebrated show *Amaluna* marked my first experience of the famed circus practitioners, writes Nicky Sweetland.

Although I've always loved acrobatics and juggling – I actually own a unicycle – I was a put off from circus when at a young age by the uncomfortable wooden seats, sawdust and the chill of an unheated big top.

It turns out that my resistance to the art form is un-

founded, however, and the performance by the world-renowned masters of calisthenics proved one of the most thrilling theatrical experiences I've ever experienced.

Loosely based on Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, *Amaluna* is packed with breathtaking aerial stunts, astonishingly acrobatics and stunning symbolism.

With a thumping rock soundtrack and dazzling stage effects, the love story becomes a spectacle – and when the clowning expertise of Mainha and Papulya is added to the mix, you are greeted with all of the elements of a traditional circus but with a whole lot more pizazz.

Highlights include an asymmetric-bar routine performed by a troupe of feisty goddesses, an aerial hoop display executed 30 feet above the cavernous auditorium, and a mesmerising water sequence which is driven by the narrative of the central character's burgeoning love.

There are themes of female empowerment woven into the plot, with 70 per cent of the cast made up of women and the awesome band entirely propelled by girl power.

A theatrical spectacular that is not to be missed, Amaluna continues at the Royal Albert Hall until February 26. For more details about the show, visit [royalalberthall.com](http://www.royalalberthall.com).

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Capital nights

gigguide

Compiled by Jack Dixon



Echobelly

The Lexington, Islington
Tuesday January 24
Nineties indie rock heroes who rode the Brit-pop wave alongside Pulp, Blur and Oasis. Inspired by Blondie and The Smiths, the band balance fast guitar riffs with singer Sonya Madan's hushed bubblegum vocals. Enjoyed success with the number four album *On*, in 1995, which yielded the hit single *King Of The Kerb*.



Simian Mobile Disco

Village Underground, Shoreditch
Friday January 27
London electronic duo known for analogue production techniques and popular dance beats. Have gained notoriety in recent years for remixing music by Muse, Klaxons and The Go! Team. Returned last year with *Welcome To Sideways* after two-year absence.



Black Sabbath

The O2, Greenwich
Sunday January 29
Legendary British metal band fronted by iconic singer Ozzy Osbourne. Most famous for rock classic *Paranoid*, the band are still touring with original members Tony Iommi and Geezer Butler. The O2 show is slated as part of the band's final ever tour before hanging up their instruments.

MELODIC, direct and brimming with emotional urgency, the long-awaited return of indie architects British Sea Power is here at last.

Throughout their colourful lifespan as a band, the Brighton outfit have taken a broad and panoramic perspective that has drawn on historical events while mirroring the ageless wonders of the natural world.

Their comeback album – *Let The Dancers Inherit The Party* – continues in the band's grand tradition, covering subject matter that spans the astronomical glory of the star-spangled night sky to the twisted methodology of media manipulation.

A contemporary record for troubled times, the album alludes to a world full of chaos and disorder while setting out an agenda of optimism and hope.

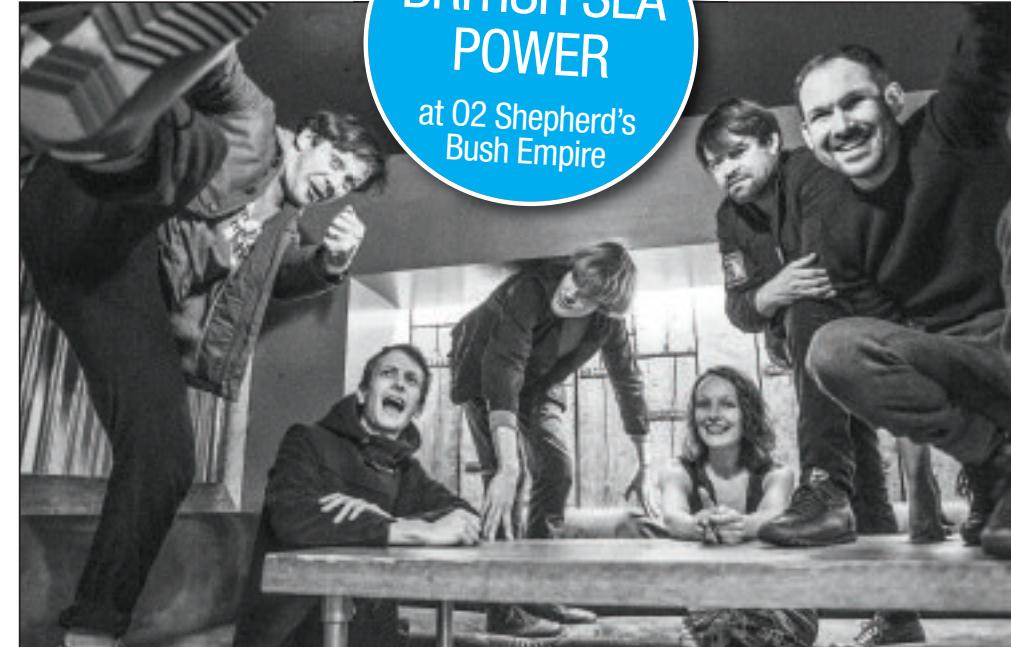
"It was made to a background of politicians perfecting the art of unabashed lying, of social-media echo chambers, of clickbait and electronic Tonka toys to keep us entertained and befuddled," says guitarist Martin Noble.

"All this can easily make the individual feel futile. But I think we've ended up addressing this confusion in an invigorating way, rather than imprisoning the listener in melancholy."

Musically, it's British Sea Power's most direct album to date – and perhaps the first to hold on to a coherent sense of mood throughout.

Recorded last year – part in London, part in Sussex, part on the Isle of Skye – it follows the band's string of five LPs on the iconic Rough Trade label.

So committed are they to the cause that BSP now hold the proud



honour of being the longest continually signed band in the label's history.

While Rough Trade have been a vital factor in the band's rise to fame, so have their fans.

The new album was actually licensed from the band's own Golden Chariot label to Caroline International – and funded entirely by its remarkably dedicated audience.

Donations were collected via a 'pay-in' programme, with pledges enabling the listener to cash in on anything from a limited-edition box set of the album to a £1,500 tattoo that allows entry to all of the band's future shows.

British Sea Power may be big thinkers. But their faith in their fans demonstrates again a fascination with the individual in a global

age. "There wasn't a plan to create an album with any particular subject matter but we've kind of ended up with a case of 'think global, act local,'" explains Noble.

"An album where individuals are dealing with their domestic and personal lives against a background of uncontrollable international lunacy."

Let The Dancers Inherit The Party follows the 2013 album *Machineries Of Joy* – a record praised by influential music magazine Q as "a triumph of sophisticated rock engineering".

In the four years since, British Sea Power have kept busy, releasing two film soundtracks, a reissue and a compilation.

They even found time to pen the theme music to BT Sport's coverage

of the European Football Championships last summer.

All the while they have enthralled fans by playing gigs in ever more bizarre and unconventional locations, winning praise from celebrity followers including Doctor Who, Harry Potter and Sherlock Holmes – Peter Capaldi, Daniel Radcliffe and Benedict Cumberbatch have all declared an interest.

2017 may be the year of calm after the international storm that was its predecessor.

But British Sea Power are set to ride their own musical wave all the way to the top.

British Sea Power will perform at the O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire on Wednesday April 12. The new album, Let The Dancers Inherit The Party, is out on March 31.

Scatty, mad-hat method is just the ticket

REVIEW

Ross Noble
Richmond Theatre

"WITH my show titles I attempt to become the Ronseal of comedy – they do exactly what they say on the tin," says Geordie comic Ross Noble, describing his latest routine *Brain Dump*.

"This is me dumping all the stuff that's in my head into a theatrical context."

He revealed in a recent interview that the idea for the title actually came from a scathing Amazon review for one of his previous DVDs.

Describing the comedian's scattergun approach as a "brain dump" was supposed to be an insult – but Noble took the words as a compliment. It's a beautifully succinct way



to sum up the freestyle wonder wander to which Noble treats his audience at the Richmond Theatre.

He catapults from one barmy idea to the next, it's as if he's constantly on a timer –

only 15 seconds to crack the laugh from each brainwave before he jolts haphazardly on to the next.

It's hard to pick out the building blocks of Noble's routine, so prone is he to meandering wildly off-course.

But the scatty, mad-hat method is just the ticket, allowing the 40-something stand-up to build rapport with his audience, which culminates in an end-of-show ovation for the front-row fans who unwittingly became the supporting cast.

Noble is famous on the circuit for his rambling monologues, often marauding miles off topic before boomeranging back to the thrust of his (often nonsensical) main point.

It may not be a masterclass in spinning the perfect argument – but Noble is a genius entertainer all the same.

Capital nights

NOTHING the world holds could match the love waiting for me in Mexico City, Morrissey once said. Of all the cities the legendary singer has performed in – as the frontman with The Smiths and later as a solo artist – he has singled out the South American capital as a home from home.

While he complains of toxic derision from the music press in Britain, the boy who famously carried ‘a thorn in his side’ is full of love for his Mexican cousins.

And, it seems, the feeling’s mutual. In Mexico, Morrissey has always been a prophet with honour. His songs of love, loss and longing, loaded with powerful imagery, have found a huge audience and chimed with generations raised on rancheras.

One band in particular – a Mexican supergroup comprising some of the country’s best-known musicians – has begun to move this fandom.

Mexrissey, a bootleg tribute band of the most unusual variety, are in the midst of a UK tour taking to many of the stages graced by their hero over the years.

Combining Morrissey’s often morose lyrics detailing the trials of a frustrated English existence with upbeat mariachi music might seem something of a mismatch.

But Moz’s famous songs are reimagined with tenderness and attention to detail by skilful instrumentalists.

Andy Wood, director of the La Linea Festival in London, approached Mexican musician Camilo Lara with the initial idea three years ago.

“It just felt like time,” he said. “I had a sense of the feeling for Morrissey in Mexico and the way that his music could connect with so much in Mexican music.”

Mexrissey released their first album – *No Manchester* – last year (the title is now a cultural colloquialism for “Are you kidding me?”) after the band found stylistic similarities between the Smithsonian compositions.

The First Of The Gang To Die – probably Moz’s most overtly Mexican track, including its tragic-comic mobster hero Hector – is an

obvious starting point. But the band also take on all manner of the singer’s hits, featuring versions of *The Last Of The International Playboys*, *Suedehead* and *The More You Ignore Me, The Closer I Get* among others.

Lara said: “I always thought that there were these invisible lines between what Morrissey and Manchester represents and what Mexican pop culture has.

“I think for the people that know the songs, I’m sure that they will be amazed that they can go into these directions of cumbia and boleros, and sound actually as if they were written in that style.”

Having said that, it’s the words, the playful turns of phrase and trademark wailing that are trickiest to translate.

“We try to get a glimpse of the poetry in Morrissey’s work and to capture the history, the anger and the happiness at the same time. That has been a challenge.”

The band performed their first show in April 2015 but have shot to notoriety in less than two years.

A sold-out main-stage debut at London’s La Linea Festival was soon followed by an emotional gig in Manchester, the spiritual home of Morrissey’s music.

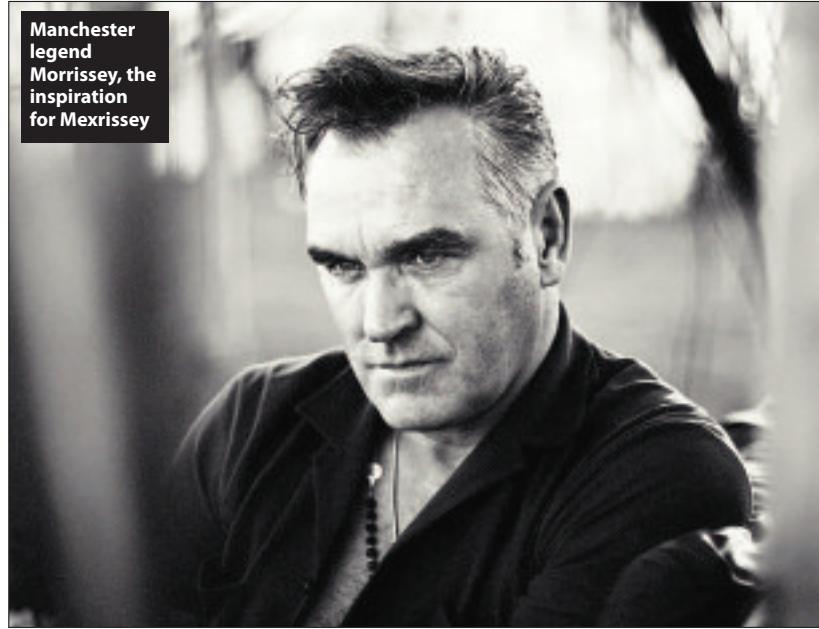
And triumphant shows in New York and Los Angeles – where the singer now lives – have established Mexrissey on the international stage.

Their success is both a marker of Moz’s enduring appeal as an artist and his mythological musical status.

But it also goes to show that true greats never fail to inspire others to new and remarkable feats of invention.

*Mexrissey perform at the O2 Shepherd’s Bush Empire on Saturday January 28. The album *No Manchester* is out now.*

Manchester legend Morrissey, the inspiration for Mexrissey

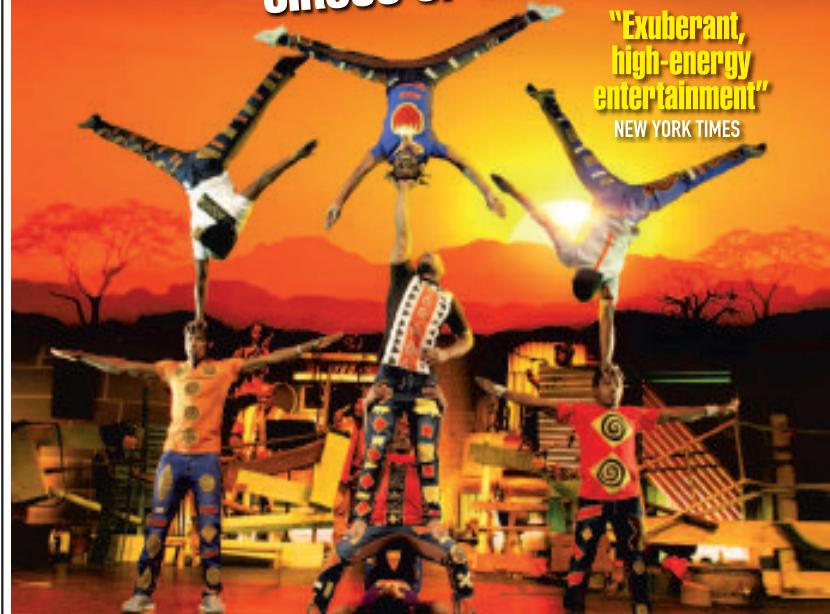


Jack Dixon
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An exciting role has arisen at Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) for an individual with excellent communications, relationship management and interpersonal skills to lead the OPDC Engagement Strategy with local residents, community groups, businesses, boroughs, major stakeholders and partners within Old Oak and Park Royal in West London.

Established in April 2015 by the Mayor of London, OPDC is the local planning authority for Old Oak and Park Royal, and has powers to facilitate regeneration of the area. Working as part of the Communications and Engagement team, and with line management responsibilities, you will deliver the OPDC Community Engagement Strategy and support statutory consultation requirements as well as other corporate priorities. You will plan and manage statutory public consultation processes for the Local Plan, community engagement events, a youth engagement programme and work with developers using your expertise to advise on their consultations. You will have experience and be confident in engaging hard-to-reach groups using a variety of communications methods, processes and (on and offline) channels, and be comfortable using different research techniques. You'll also have the written communication skills to analyse and report on consultation findings.

As OPDC's eyes and ears locally, you will take a leading role to conduct stakeholder mapping and build relationships by spending 2-3 days a week meeting and engaging local communities, visiting local groups, attending workshops and events to understand aspirations and concerns and be clear on 'our story' and benefits for the area. You will be an ambassador for OPDC and use intelligence gathered from your engagements to maintain a stakeholder database, keep OPDC colleagues apprised and inform development of short and long-term projects at the Corporation.

www.london.gov.uk/opdc

Public Notices

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(HAMMERSMITH BRIDGE)
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC**

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate deck repair works to be carried out in the above named road; it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload on Hammersmith Bridge.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via xxxx
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the 11th February 2017 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Saturday 11th February 2017 and last for 9 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 13th day of January 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(BLOEMFONTEIN ROAD)
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC**

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Water Main works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Bloemfontein Road at its junction with Bloemfontein Avenue.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Ellerslie Road.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 30th January 2017 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Monday 30th January 2017 and last for 4 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 20th day of January 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM (THE HAMMERSMITH AND
FULHAM) (ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING PLACES)
(AMENDMENT NO. 3) ORDER 20****

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham propose to make the above Order under section 6 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended.
2. The general nature and effect of the Hammersmith and Fulham (Electric Vehicle Charging Places) (Amendment No. 3) Order 2017 is to amend the Hammersmith and Fulham (Electric Vehicle Charging Places) Order 2016 by introducing and revoking designated Electric Vehicle charging bays on the roads listed in the schedule to this notice.
3. A copy of the proposed Orders, the Council's statement of reasons for proposing to make the Orders and documents giving more detailed particulars of them, can be inspected during normal office hours on Mondays to Fridays inclusive, until the end of a period of 6 weeks beginning with the date on which the Orders are made, in the offices of the Transport and Highways Department at the address stated in paragraph 4 below.
4. Any person wishing to object to the proposed Orders or make other representations should send a statement in writing to that effect and, in the case of an objection, stating the grounds thereof, to the following address:

Transport and Highways Department, Environmental Services, Town Hall Extension, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 9JU - until the expiration of 21 days from the date on which this Notice is published.

Dated this 20th January 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

Schedule:
Playfair Street, Erconwald Street, Hartswood Road, Sawley Road, Waldo Road, Wormholt Terrace, Bagley's Lane, Brook Green, Kelvedon Road, Margravine Gardens Paddenswick Road, Watermeadow Lane, Edith Row and Blacks Road

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(FULHAM PALACE ROAD)
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC**

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Thames Water works to be carried out in the above named road; it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit southbound vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed in a southbound direction, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Fulham Palace Road between A Block Guinness Trust Buildings and Yeldham Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be required.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the 13th February 2017 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Monday 13th February 2017 and last for 4 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 20th day of January 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(NASCOT STREET)
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC**

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Gas Main works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Nascot Street.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Wood Lane, Caverswall Street, Eymham Road and Glenroy Street.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 30th January 2017 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on Monday 30th January 2017 and last for 3 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 20th day of January 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(FULHAM PALACE ROAD)
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(EDITH ROAD)
TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC**

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate telecommunication works to be carried out in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Hammersmith Road opposite its junction with Edith Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Holland Road, Addison Crescent & Addison Road.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order will come into operation on the 4th February 2017 and will be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works are expected to commence on day Saturday 4th February 2017 and last for 3 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 20th day of January 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

PUBLIC NOTICE

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

DESIGNATION OF AN AREA FOR SELECTIVE LICENSING 2016

Section 80, Housing Act 2004

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with Section 83 Housing Act 2004 (Notification Requirements Relating to Designation) that the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham acting as local housing authority in exercise of its powers under Section 80 of the Housing Act 2004 has designated the area described in paragraph 4 for selective licensing.

CITATION, COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION

1. This designation may be cited as the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham Designation for an Area for Selective Licensing 2016.
2. This designation is made on **13 December 2016** and shall come into force on **5 June 2017**.
3. This designation shall cease to have effect on **4 June 2022** or earlier if the Council revokes the scheme under section 84 of the Act.

AREA TO WHICH THE DESIGNATION APPLIES

4. The designation applies to the following streets as listed at Annex A.

APPLICATION OF THE DESIGNATION

5. This designation applies to any house which is let or occupied under a tenancy or licence within the area described in paragraph 4 unless:
 - a) the house is a house in multiple occupation and is required to be licensed under Part 2 of the Act;
 - b) the tenancy or licence of the house has been granted by a registered social landlord;
 - c) the house is subject to an Interim or Final Management Order under Part 4 of the Act;
 - d) the house is subject to a temporary exemption under section 86 of the Act; or
 - e) the house is occupied under a tenancy or licence which is exempt under the Act or the occupation is of a building or part of a building so exempt as defined in The Selective Licensing of Houses (Specified Exemptions) (England) Order 2006 SI 370/2006

EFFECT OF THE DESIGNATION

6. Subject to sub paragraphs 5(a) to (e) every house in the area specified in paragraph 4 that is occupied under a tenancy or licence shall be required to be licensed under section 85 of the Act.

INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS/APPLICATION FOR LICENCE

7. If you are a landlord, managing agent, or a tenant, and wish to inspect this designation, apply for a licence or require further information, this is available from:

Private Housing, Environmental Health,
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham,
Town Hall, King Street,
Hammersmith London W6 9JU
Email: phs@lbfh.gov.uk Tel: 020 8753 1221

The designation does not require confirmation by the Secretary of State and falls within a general approval issued by the Secretary of State under Section 82 of the Act, namely the Housing Act 2004: Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation and Selective Licensing of Other Residential Accommodation (England) General Approval 2010.

Any private landlord, property manager or tenant owning, managing or occupying a property within this area is advised to seek advice from the Council's Housing Standards Team by telephone on **020 8753 1221** by email to phs@lbfh.gov.uk or in writing to London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, Town Hall, King Street, Hammersmith, London W6 9JU to determine whether their property is affected by the designation. Private landlords who own property in the area or any person that controls or manages property in the area will be required from **5 June 2017** to apply for a licence.

ENFORCEMENT

8. Upon the Designation coming into force on 5 June 2017 any person who operates a licensable property without a licence shall be guilty of an offence under Section 95(1) of the Act. A person who breaches a condition of a licence is liable to prosecution and upon summary conviction liable to an unlimited fine.

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham Executive approval 12 December 2016

Annex A: Streets in Hammersmith & Fulham were Selective Licensing applies

Adie Road	Harwood Terrace	St John's Close
Aldensley Road	Hawkesmoor Street	Stanwick Road
Armadale Road	Hazlitt Mews	Station Approach
Askew Crescent	Hilary Close	Sterne Street
Askew Road	Hofland Road	Studland Street
Aspenea Road	Hopgood Street	Sullivan Road
Astrop Mews	Imperial Road	Talgarth Road
Astrop Terrace	Jordan Place	Tamarisk Square
Augustine Road	Kenmont Gardens	Telephone Place
Barb Mews	Kilmarnock Road	Terrick Street
Basuto Road	King Street	Trevanion Road
Batoum Gardens	King's Road	Tyrwhitt Road
Batson Street	Lalor Street	Upper Mall
Beaconsfield Terrace Road	Lamington Street	Uxbridge Road
Beaver Lane	Lanfrey Place	Dalling Road
Bentworth Road	Langford Road	Dawes Road
Beryl Road	Larnach Road	Devonport Road
Bishop's Avenue	Leamore Street	Down Place
Bloemfontein Road	Lettice Street	Dunraven Road
Bloemfontein Way	Leylands Road	Eddiscombe Road
Bothwell Street	Lilac Street	Effie Place
Bramble Gardens	Lime Grove	Effie Road
Britannia Road	Loris Road	Elysium Place
Broomhouse Lane	Lower Mall	Epirus Mews
Bryony Road	Luxemburg Gardens	Erconwald Street
Bulwer Street	Macbeth Street	Fane Street
Byam Street	Macfarlane Road	Farm Lane
Cactus Walk	Mandela Close	Felden Street
Cambria Street	Palliser Road	Fielding Road
Cambridge Grove	Parsons Green	Filmer Road
Cassidy Road	Parsons Green Lane	Firth Gardens
Cathnor Road	Peterborough Mews	Maurice Street
Caverswall Street	Poplar Mews	Meldon Close
Caxton Road	Porten Road	Melina Road
Chancellors Road	Primula Street	Melrose Terrace
Charlow Close	Purcell Crescent	Micklethwaite Road
Clancarty Road	Ravenscourt Avenue	Milson Road
Colehill Lane	Ravenscourt Park	Molesford Road
Commonwealth Avenue	Ravenscourt Place	Moore Park Road
Coningham Mews	Raynham Road	New King's Road
Coulter Road	Redmore Road	Norbroke Street
Crabtree Lane	Reporton Road	Normandy Road
Daffodil Street	Rickett Street	North End Crescent
Foxglove Street	Rigault Road	North End Road
Frithville Gardens	Rockley Road	Old Oak Road
Fulham Broadway	Rosebury Road	Olgar Close
Fulham High Street	Rycroft Street	Ormiston Grove
Fulham Park Road	Scrubbs Lane	Overstone Road
Fulham Road	Shepherd's Bush Place	Vereker Road
Galloway Road	Shepherd's Bush Road	Wallflower Street
Glenroy Street	Sherbrooke Road	Waterford Road
Glenthorne Road	Shortlands	Wetmore Lane
Goldhawk Mews Goldhawk Road	Snowbury Road	Wells Road
Goodwin Road	South Black Lion Lane	Wood Lane
Gorleston Street	Southcombe Street	Woodlawn Road
Grimston Road	Southerton Road	Woodstock Grove
Gwyn Close	Spring Vale Terrace	Yew Tree Road

Local Planning Applications

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham



PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS)

ACT 1990

I give notice that applications have been made to the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as follows: **FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA**
6 Adie Road London W6 0PW 2017/00090/FUL

Installation of new doors and windows to replace the existing sliding doors at second floor level to the rear elevation.

21 Rigault Road London SW6 4JJ 2017/00082/FUL

Erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; installation of French doors and a Juliet balcony in the rear roofspace; installation of a rooflight above the main flat roof at roof level;

Flat 42 Rosebank Holypore Road London SW6 6LQ 2016/05062/FUL

Replacement of the existing steel railings around the flat roof at roof level with new glazed screening.

1 And 3 Durrell Road London SW6 5LQ 2016/05356/FUL

Erection of single storey rear extensions, excavation of the front and rear gardens to form lightwells in connection with the enlargement of the existing basements to both properties at 1 and 3 Durrell Road.

1 And 3 Durrell Road London SW6 5LQ 2016/05370/FUL

Erection of front roof extensions, erection of rear extensions at second floor level over part of the existing back additions and raising of the party walls at roof levels to both properties at 1 and 3 Durrell Road; installation of French doors and a Juliet balcony in the rear roofspace to no. 1 Durrell Road and installation of a door and Juliet balcony in the rear roofspace to no. 3 Durrell Road.

Mitford Building 10 Dawes Road London SW6 7EW 2016/04900/FUL

Continued use of ground floor and basement as a Mini-Cab control office (Class Sui Generis).

Flat 3 2A Hazlebury Road London SW6 2NB 2017/00028/FUL

Replace existing window to rear elevation at first floor level with French doors and erection of obscured glass screens around the flat roof to rear elevation at first floor level for its use as a terrace.

158 St Olaf's Road London SW6 7DP 2016/05230/VAR

Removal of conditions 15 and 16 of planning permission ref: 2014/03174/FUL granted 19th September 2014 to allow the occupiers of the new residential unit to apply for street parking permits.

1 Meldon Close London SW6 2AQ 2017/00129/FUL

Replacement of existing garage door with new double-glazed French doors and windows with matching brick infill, in connection with the conversion of the integral garage into a habitable room.

624 King's Road London SW6 2DU 2016/05456/FUL

Erection of an additional floor at roof level; erection of rear extensions at ground and first floor level; formation of a roof terrace at second floor level.

Land To The South Of Wilson's Road London 2017/00076/FUL

Continued use of 4no. two storey porta cabins, associated external staircases and hoarding around the perimeter of the porta cabin, including access gates (in connection with adjacent LAMDA site) for a temporary period of three months.

146A North End Road London W14 9PP

2017/00038/FUL

Use of premises as a 24 hour radio-controlled booking office in connection with a mini-cab business (Class Sui Generis).

183 North End Road London W14 9NL 2017/00052/ADV

Display of an internally illuminated digital led screen measuring 3m (height) x 6m (width) x 0.45m (depth) to north western elevation of the building.

First Floor Salisbury Villas Cartwheel Road London W6 0DU 2016/05410/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension including the formation of a hip to gable roof extension; installation of 2no rooflights in the front roofspace and 2no rooflights above the main flat roof at roof level.

Flat First Floor

15 Cathnor Road London W12 9JD 2017/00077/FUL

Replacement of all existing timber windows to front and side elevation with upvc windows; replacement of two timber windows to rear elevation at first floor level with one French door and one larger upvc window.

Latymer Upper School 237 King Street London W6 9LR 2016/05076/FUL

Erection of an additional floor on top of the art studio at roof level.

Land Adjacent To

1 Sedlescombe Road London SW6 5LQ 2016/04696/FUL

Demolition of existing single storey storage building; erection of a part one, part two, part three storey plus-basement single family dwellinghouse.

Land To Rear Of 84 Stamford Brook Road London W6 0XN 2016/05409/FUL

Erection of a single four-bedroom family dwelling to the rear of 84 Stamford Brook Road with car parking and private access gate including associated landscaping and boundary treatment.

Mitford Building 10 Dawes Road London SW6 7EW 2016/04900/FUL

Refurbishment of the existing building at 84 Stamford Brook including washing the brick skin down, new disabled access to the front and rear of the existing building, new pedestrian and vehicular access gates, refurbished entrance and porch including new metal awning to existing building, new external lighting, new external security cameras in several locations (Revised description).

378 Uxbridge Road London W12 7LL 2017/00104/FUL

Retention of an atm machine to the front elevation.

378 Uxbridge Road London W12 7LL 2017/00105/ADV

Retention of internally illuminated atm surround to the front elevation.

Flat 5 E 156 - 158 Wandsworth Bridge Road London SW6 2UH 2017/00116/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension involving an increase in the ridge height; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; formation of a roof terrace at third floor level to the rear elevation; installation of 3no rooflights in the front roofspace, 4no rooflights above the main flat roof at roof level and 1no rooflight above the front dormer window; installation of a new window to the rear elevation and to the side of rear back addition at second floor level.

Flat First Second And Third Floors 30 Aynhoe Road London W14 0QD 2017/00091/FUL

Alteration to the main roof to accommodate a sunken terrace and installation of two sliding rooflights for access.

Unit 17 Kings Mall King Street London W6 0PZ

2017/00094/FUL

Change of use of the existing unit from retail (Class A1) on the ground floor and ancillary basement space to (Class D2) gymnasium.

FOR CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT (DEMOLITION WORK)

FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED BUILDING

Mitford Building

Dawes Road London SW6 7EW 2016/04800/FUL

Continued use of ground floor and basement as a Mini-Cab control office (Class Sui Generis).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 14th February 2017. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

NOTICES UNDER REGULATION 13

7 - 9 Wyfold Road London SW6 6SE 2017/00035/VAR

I give notice that Mr Andrew Thompson is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Variation of conditions 27 and 28 of planning permission ref: 2013/01118/FUL granted 29th January 2014 to allow the list of sustainability measures that outlines all of the sustainability measures that have been implemented in the completed building design and construction as set out in condition 28 within 6 months of the building being occupied.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 14th February 2017. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

Signed: **NIGEL PALLACE**
Executive Director for Transport and Technical Services
on behalf of HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL

You can view applications, make comments and monitor their progress on our website: www.lbfh.gov.uk/planning.

Click on the 'Planning Online' logo on the Planning Home Page.

You can also E-mail comments to: planningcomments@lbfh.gov.uk

You can also inspect details of applications using computers at our office **RECEPTION FIRST**

FLOOR HAMMERSMITH TOWN HALL EXTENSION KING STREET

W6 2QJ by the date shown above. Please include the application reference number and the name of the planning officer. We will try to consider any representations received after the date indicated but this cannot be guaranteed so please reply promptly. For initial enquiries call our information and reception service on **020 8753 1081** or **020 8753 1082**.

PUBLIC NOTICE
LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM
DESIGNATION OF AN AREA FOR ADDITIONAL LICENSING OF HOUSES IN
MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (HMOs)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with Section 59 Housing Act 2004 (Notification Requirements Relating to Designation) that the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham acting as local housing authority in exercise of its powers under Section 56 of the Housing Act 2004 ("the Act") has designated for additional licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation ("HMOs") the area described in paragraph 4.

CITATION, COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION

1. This designation may be cited as the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham Designation for an Area for Additional Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation 2016.
2. This designation is made on **13 December 2016** and shall come into force on **5 June 2017**.
3. This designation shall cease to have effect on **4 June 2022** or earlier if the Council revokes the scheme under section 60 of the Act.

AREA TO WHICH THE DESIGNATION APPLIES

4. The designation shall apply to the whole area of the district of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

APPLICATION OF THE DESIGNATION

5. This designation applies to all HMOs as defined by section 254 of the Housing Act 2004 that are occupied by 3 or more persons comprising 2 or more households, within the area described in paragraph 4 unless -
 - a) the building is of a description specified in Annex A (Buildings that are not HMOs for the purpose of the Act- other than Part 1);
 - b) the HMO is subject to an Interim or Final Management Order under Part 4 of the Act;
 - c) the HMO is subject to a temporary exemption under section 62 of the Act; or
 - d) the HMO is required to be licensed under section 55 (2) (a) of the Act (mandatory licensing).

EFFECT OF THE DESIGNATION

6. Subject to sub paragraphs 5(a) to (d) above, every HMO of the description specified in that paragraph in the area specified in paragraph 4 shall be required to be licensed under section 61 of the Act.

The designation was given general approval by the Executive Member for Housing under a delegated authority from the Executive of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham Council. The designation falls within a description of designations in relation to which the Secretary of State has given a general approval under section 58 of the Housing Act 2004, namely The Housing Act 2004: Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation and Selective Licensing of Other Residential Accommodation (England) General Approval 2015 which came into force on the 1st April 2015.

A person having control of or managing a prescribed HMO must apply to the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham for a licence.

INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS/APPLICATION FOR LICENCE

7. Any landlord, managing agent or other person managing a HMO or any tenant within the Borough may inspect the designation, apply for a licence or seek further information or advice as to whether their property is affected by the designation from:

Private Housing, Environmental Health, London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, Town Hall, King Street Hammersmith, London W6 9JU
 Email: phs@bhf.gov.uk Tel: 020 8753 1221

ENFORCEMENT

8. Upon the Designation coming into force on **5 June 2017** any person who fails to apply for a licence in the designated area shall be guilty of an offence under Section 72(1) of the Act, and shall be liable to prosecution and liable to an unlimited fine. In addition, they may be required to repay up to 12 months' rent if the tenant or the Council, in the case of housing benefit payments, apply to the Residential Property Tribunal under the provisions of section 73 and section 74 of the Housing Act 2004 for a rent repayment order.

Annex A: Buildings that are not HMOs for the purpose of the Act- other than Part 1 4

Buildings controlled or managed by public sector bodies etc 5

- A building where the person managing or having control of it is 6
 - a local housing authority
 - a non-profit registered provider of social housing
 - a police and crime commissioner under section 1 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 or the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime under section 3 of the same Act.
 - a fire and rescue authority under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004
 - a health service body within the meaning of section 9 of the National Health Service Act 2006
 - a body which is registered as a social landlord under Part 1 of the Housing Act 1996.
 - a profit-making registered provider of social housing where it is social housing within the meaning of Part 2 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 7

Buildings controlled or managed by a co-operative society 8

- A building where -
 - the person managing or having control of it is a co-operative society whose rules are such as to secure that each of the conditions set out below is met, and
 - no person who occupies premises in the building does so by virtue of an assured tenancy, a secure tenancy or a protected tenancy 9

The conditions are-

- that membership of the society is restricted to persons who are occupiers or prospective occupiers of buildings managed or controlled by the society,
- that all management decisions of the society are made by the members (or a specified quorum of members) at a general meeting which all members are entitled to, and invited to, attend,
- that each member has equal voting rights at such a meeting, and
- that, if a person occupies premises in the building and is not a member, that person is an occupier of the premises only as a result of sharing occupation of them with a member at the member's invitation.

For these purposes "co-operative society" means a body that-

- is registered as a co-operative society under the 2014 Act, or is a pre-commencement society (within the meaning of that Act) that meets the condition in section 2(2)(a)(i) of that Act, and is neither-
- i) a non-profit registered provider of social housing, nor
- ii) registered as a social landlord under Part 1 of the Housing Act 1996.

4. Schedule 14 of the Act and SI 2006/373

5. Paragraph 2 of schedule 14.

6. For the definition of "person managing" and "person having control" see section 263 of the Act.

7. Paragraph 2A of schedule 14.

8. Paragraph 2B of Schedule 14.

9. "assured tenancy" has the same meaning as in Part 1 of the Housing Act 1988; "protected tenancy" has the same meaning as in the Rent Act 1977; "secure tenancy" has the same meaning as in Part 4 of the Housing Act 1985.

10. the 2014 Act" means the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014.

Buildings regulated by other enactments 11

- A tenancy, licence or occupation of a house which is regulated under the following enactments:
 - sections 87 to 87D of the Children Act 1989
 - section 43 (4) of the Prison Act 1952
 - section 34 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002
 - the Secure Training Centre Rules 1998 12
 - the Prison Rules 1999 13
 - the Young Offender Institute Rules 2000 14
 - the Detention Centre Rules 2001 15 16
 - the Criminal Justice and Court Service Act 2000 (Approved Premises) Regulations 2001 16
 - the Care Homes Regulations 2001 17
 - the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 18
 - the Residential Family Centres Regulations 2002 19

Certain student lettings etc 20

- A building -
 - which is managed or controlled by a specified educational establishment or is of a specified description of such establishments and
 - the occupiers of the house or dwelling are undertaking a full time course of further or higher education at the specified establishment 21 and
 - the house or dwelling is being managed in conformity with an Approved Code of Practice for the management of accepted accommodation under section 233 of the Act. 22

Religious communities 23

- A building which is occupied principally for the purpose of a religious community whose principal occupation is prayer, contemplation, education or the relief of suffering except if the building is a converted block of flats to which section 257 of the Act applies.

Buildings occupied by owners 24

- A building which is only occupied by-
 - one or more persons who hold the freehold or a leasehold interest granted for a term of more than 21 years of the whole, or any part, of the building
 - any member of the household 25 of that person or persons but this exemption does not apply to a converted block of flats to which section 257 of the Act applies, except for ascertaining the status of any flat within the block.

Buildings occupied by resident landlord etc 26

- A building which is occupied by a person or persons to whom paragraph 6 applies (subject to the proviso therein) and no more than two 27 other persons, not forming part of the owner's household.

Buildings occupied by two persons 28

- Any building which is only occupied by two persons (forming two households)

Meaning of "building"

- In this annex a "building" includes a part of the building 29

11. Paragraph 3 of Schedule 14

12. SI 1998/472 as amended by 2003/3005

13. SI 1999/728 as amended by SI 2000/1794, SI 2000/2641, SI 2001/1149, SI 2002/2116, SI 2002/3135, SI 2003/3301 and 2005/869

14. SI 2000/3371 as amended by SI 2002/1171, SI 2002/3135 and 2005/897

15. SI 2001/238 NB Section 66(4) of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 provides that the reference to a detention centre is to be construed as a reference to a removal centre as defined in Part VIII of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

16. SI 2001/850

17. 2001/3965 as amended by SI 2002/865, SI 2003/534, SI 2003/1590, SI 2003/1703, SI 2003/1845, SI 2004/664, SI 2005/656, 2004/1770, 2004/2071 and 2004/3168

18. SI 2002/3213 as amended by SI 2004/664, 2004/865 and 2004/3168

20. Paragraph 4 of Schedule 14

21. Houses in Multiple Occupation (Specified Educational Establishments) (England) Regulations 2013/1601

22. Housing (Codes of Management Practice) (Student Accommodation) (England) Order 2010/2615

23. Paragraph 5 of Schedule 14

24. Paragraph 6 of Schedule 14

25. For the definition of "household" see section 258 (2) and paragraphs 3 and 4 of SI 373/2006

Paragraph 6 of Schedule 14

Public Notices

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

SECTION 14(1)

(ONGAR ROAD)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Thames Water works to be carried out in the above named road; it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit southbound vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed in a southbound direction, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Ongar Road between its junctions with Hildyard Road and Halford Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Sedlescombe Road, Tamworth Street and Halford Road.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the 7th March 2017 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Tuesday 7th March 2017 and last for 4 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 20th day of January 2017

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
 Chief Transport Planner
 Transport and Highways

JAMES ALPHONSIUS ROCK

OTHERWISE JAMES ROCKS,
 LATE OF KENSINGTON, DIED
 THERE ON 9 OCTOBER 2014
 The kin of the above named are requested to apply to the Government Legal Department (BV), One Kemble Street, London WC2B 4TS or at www.gov.uk/bonavacantia, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

Government
 Legal Department

PUBLIC NOTICE (Licensing Act 2003)

Take notice that Nisa Local London Ltd has applied to Kensington & Chelsea Council under the Licensing Act 2003 for a premises licence in respect of the premises, Nisa Local London Ltd, 100 Gloucester Grove, London W10 5HU. A copy of the proposed licence is as follows: The supply of alcohol for off of the premises 0800 to 2300 hours and opening hours 0000 to 2359 Monday to Sunday. Full details of the council website are <https://www.rbk.gov.uk/licensing-information/licensing-registers>

The full application can be inspected at Kensington & Chelsea Council, at the above address in normal office hours. Other persons or responsible authorities can make written representations to the Licensing Service, Licensing Team, Council Offices, 37 Pembroke Road, London, W8 6PW by the 10th February 2017. It is an offence to allow on conviction to a fine up to level 5 on the standard scale or to a prison sentence under the Licensing Act 2003 to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with this application.

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Alex the great makes Fulham pay penalty



QUEENS Park Rangers goalkeeper Alex Smithies is laying claim to the title of penalty-saving king after his latest heroics earned his side a 1-1 draw in Saturday's feisty West London derby with Fulham.

When Smithies dived low to his right to push Chris Martin's spot-kick around the post at The Loft end, it was his sixth save from 10 penalties faced in QPR colours.

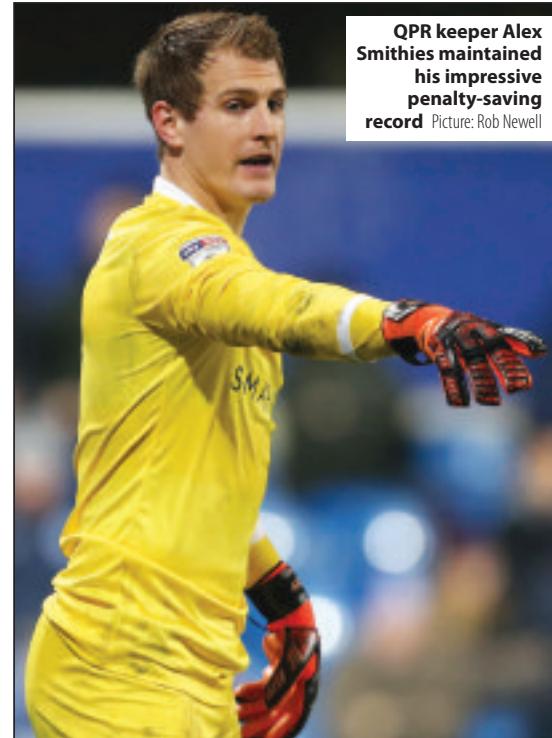
And it's the third time this season that Fulham have failed to convert from 12 yards against their local rivals. Back in October, Smithies denied Tom Cairney – and then Sone Aluko wasted his golden chance to make it 2-2 when he fired against a post in the fifth minute of time added on in SW6.

QPR manager Ian Holloway said: "Alex made a great save for us. He's a top goalkeeper and his record at saving penalties is fantastic."

Television replays indicated that justice was eventually seen to be done.

Referee's assistant Mark Pottage couldn't even blame the bright Shepherd's Bush sunshine for his decision to raise his flag in front of the shaded stand to alert referee Keith Stroud to what he saw – or what he thought he saw.

Aluko was running at pace just inside the penalty area, hotly pursued by Jake Bidwell, when he hit the deck in the sixth minute. Did the full-back unintentionally clip the winger's heels? If so, there



QPR keeper Alex Smithies maintained his impressive penalty-saving record Picture: Rob Newell

was only the slightest contact. Holloway, never one to sit on the fence in these situations, was in no doubt: "It was never a penalty. How can the referee give them a penalty like that?"

"I've never seen anything quite as embarrassing in my life, to be honest. Am I allowed to say that? Yeah, because I

can. I thought it was soft to say the least and maybe some of our lads are too honest. That's never a penalty in my book."

"We're all standing here on the side being judged and hopefully Mr Stroud will be too, because that was an awful performance from a referee."

After Smithies' latest penalty save, Irish youngster Ryan Manning celebrated signing a new contract by netting his first goal as a pro on his fourth appearance when he latched on to Kevin McDonald's error to put Rangers ahead on 25 minutes.

QPR got in the faces of their more cultured opponents and deserve credit for relentless endeavour, denying them time and space to inflict much damage – until Martin redeemed himself with the 75th-minute equaliser.

His deft touch, while left un-

marked inside the six-yard box, denied QPR a fourth consecutive league victory – a winning sequence they last achieved three years ago – and a first double over Fulham since the 1979-80 season.

It was, though, a game neither side deserved to lose and a fair result. "It was a proper derby, wasn't it? The fighting spirit from both sides was great to see," said Holloway.

"It was a really tough game. Fulham are a really good side. It was difficult for us because we had to do things a bit differently to what we normally do. Our shape was good but we didn't quite get tight enough to them and that's credit to Fulham."

"But we more than matched a good side who have been together a long time. Our spirit was fantastic. That's a big point for us today. Onwards and upwards for us now."

"I'm disappointed we didn't win the game. We needed a second goal really but it wasn't to be."

"It's nice to get a draw rather than get beaten but I wanted all three points."

"We're still a new group with a new manager. We're learning as we go but I can't fault the boys. I'm very proud of our lads. They gave it everything and we've kept our old run going."

"Something is growing here. There's a real unity in this group. The fans were magnificent. I hope they like what they're seeing from us. I really think they are."

"That's four games undefeated, with three wins, and we are moving forward. We've got to keep this going now."

Rangers, now 17th in the Championship, hope to get back on the winning trail when they entertain third-bottom Burton Albion in W12 on Saturday. The Brewers have not scored in their last three matches and have lost seven of their last eight. Their only victory in 14 away league matches came last month at Rotherham United.

Tony McDonald

Bamford joins Boro

PATRICK Bamford has left Chelsea and moved to Middlesbrough in a £6 million move, while Nathan Ake has been recalled from his loan spell at AFC Bournemouth.

Other Chelsea players out on loan are Fankaty Dabo, Charlie Colkett and Islam Feruz, who will all be making Swindon Town their home for the rest of the season.

Colombian striker Joao Rodriguez is now on loan at Cortuluá, and goalkeeper Nathan Blake has joined Solihull Moors.

Lucas Piazon and Alex Kiwomya have extended their loan spells at Fulham and Crewe Alexandra respectively, while Dion Conroy stays at Aldershot Town until the end of the season.

WIN a place on Blues legends tour thanks to LWN



Your chance to meet Gary Chivers, left, and Colin Pates

YOU can join two talented Chelsea legends, Colin Pates and Gary Chivers, in an unforgettable tour of Stamford Bridge for free if you are the winner in our great competition.

London Weekly News Sport has joined forces with our friends at Chelsea FC to offer one lucky winner two tickets to this fantastic opportunity to have a look around the inner sanctum that is Stamford Bridge on Sunday February 12 at 2.30pm.

During the Legends Tour you will have the chance to spend time with Pates, who went on to become a teacher, and Chivers, who tried his hand as a black cab driver, and hear their experiences first hand, as they take you around the dressing rooms, Press room, tunnel area, the dugout and much more.

The tour includes:

- Behind-the-scenes tour, including access to the dressing rooms and players' tunnel;
- Personal anecdotes from both players;
- Signed personalised photo of the legends;
- Q&A session;
- Access to the Chelsea FC Museum (chelseafc.com/the-club/stadium-tours-museum.html);
- Museum guidebook and audio guide.

All you have to do is be in with a chance of winning this great competition is to answer correctly the following question:

Which player went on to become a teacher and which a London taxi driver?

Send your answer, by email only, to paul.lagan@slp.co.uk.

The deadline for entry is noon on Friday February 3.

You have to make your own way to and from Stamford Bridge, as this is a ticket-only competition, but it will be well worth it.

If you don't win but still want to go, of course you can. Just buy a ticket. Prices are £70 for adults. Spaces are limited, so book online now by phoning 0371 811 1955 or email tours@chelseafc.com.

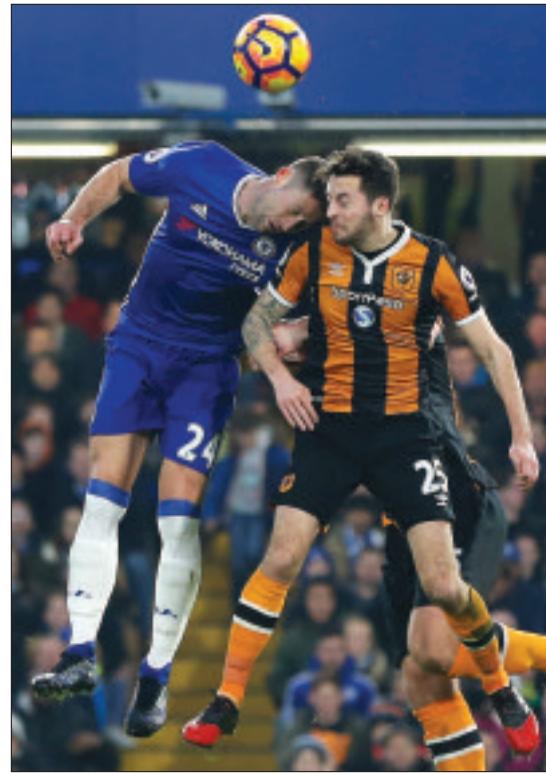
SPORT

Tuesday January 24 2017

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Diego Costa suspended thoughts of a lucrative move to China by leading Blues to victory against Hull on Sunday. Team-mate Cesar Azpilicueta was the first to join in the celebrations that followed Costa's goal



Moment of impact as Blues' Gary Cahill and Hull's Ryan Mason clash heads in the 13th minute at Stamford Bridge on Sunday. Play was held up for nine minutes while both players received treatment. Cahill recovered to score Chelsea's second goal but Mason was taken to St Mary's Hospital, where the 25-year-old midfielder underwent surgery for a fractured skull. Pictures: Rob Newell

'Perfect' Pedro hits top form

And striker Costa happy to show staying power for Blues



This week at
STAMFORD BRIDGE

By Paul Lagan

PEDRO believes that Chelsea have had the perfect weekend and that the next two Premier League games, against Liverpool and Arsenal, could determine the destination of the title.

The 29-year-old Spanish midfielder, a £21 million purchase from Barcelona in 2015, is having the best season of his Chelsea career as Blues edge towards the title – they are eight points clear of second-placed Arsenal.

He said after the regulation 2-0 win over Hull City at Stamford Bridge on Sunday: "It is good and this win was important to us to maintain our confidence. The most important thing is the three points."

"It's been a great weekend for us, lots of rivals have dropped points. There is a higher distance between us and some of our rivals now but we must take it game by game. We must prepare through the week to play against Liverpool and Arsenal. These two games will be very difficult for us."

One man proving himself invaluable to Chelsea is Diego Costa, who netted the opener against Hull in time added on at the end of the first half.

Rumours of unrest and a lucrative move to China have been put to one side while the title race is on, and Pedro is hoping that situation continues.

"Yeah, he is a great striker," said Pedro. "He put in a good performance, he is scoring more goals and helping the team. He is in a good moment for us, the club, the supporters, everybody, and we hope it continues in this way."

"I have played with important play-

ers, like (Zlatan) Ibrahimovic. Costa is a very good striker too, a very good runner, physically strong, and scores more goals. He is perfect for this team."

Pedro played down the recent controversy surrounding Costa and Antonio Conte and the training-ground bust-up. He's having none of it.

"No, with the team, he has been training very well, with his team-mates," he said. "He is very happy to be here in the club, this is the most important thing."

Pedro was one of the players who urged Costa to focus on Chelsea for the rest of this season.

"Yeah, his focus is now the team, to fight for this title. It's good that he is showing ambition for the team."

The livewire midfielder has been pivotal to Chelsea's success this season and is happy with his performances.

"This is probably my best season for Chelsea," he said, "but everyone is putting in good performances for the team. We are more compact, very good mentally, in good physical condition and we are training very hard."

But he acknowledges that securing the Premier League is not as easy as winning Spain's Primera Division, which invariably features a two-way battle between Barca and Real Madrid.

"This title is very difficult to win," he said. "The Premier League is probably the best, strongest, most competitive in the world, and for me it would be a dream to win this title."

"Our win against Hull sends a very important message to our rivals. But for us the most important thing is it continues in this way, game by game."

While not exactly dismissing Saturday's FA Cup fourth-round tie against West London neighbours Brentford, Pedro is more focused on the match at Liverpool the following Tuesday.

"All the games are important," he said. "The FA Cup is important but these two games, against Liverpool and

Arsenal in the league, are very important to us."

Meanwhile, Conte was happy with the result against Hull – despite the low-key performance.

"Yes, for sure, this wasn't our best game," he said. "But I think it's normal. It can be normal because we are in the second part of the season and the points now are heavy for us but also for the other teams. The points were very heavy for Hull City, because they are in the relegation zone."

"We faced a team in good form and with good organisation. They changed the system to play against us but I'm pleased because, after this weekend, you can see that when I talk and say games like this are very difficult, and there aren't easy games, it's the reality. This weekend told this. A lot of opponents dropped points this weekend."

"It's not easy to play the last game of the weekend and to know the results of the other teams. If the opponents win or lose, you always have pressure. Against Hull, we had the pressure to win and expect this weekend, and it's not easy."

With an eight-point lead over the chasing pack, it looks like Chelsea's title to lose. But Conte is as pragmatic as ever.

"In my experience, in my career as a footballer, I win a title by seven points four games from the end. I win – and I lost – before four games from the end. Now we have an eight-point lead with 16 games to play. Me and my players need to know this league will be very tough until the end."

"But to win this type of game and exploit the situation (Tottenham, Liverpool and the two Manchester clubs all dropped points) was very important, I'm sure about this. To stay now in that position is fantastic for us because, at the start of the season, no-one backed us."

On Costa, Conte said: "Diego has two years before his contract expires with

Chelsea. I think his contract puts to an end all the speculation. I repeat, he's very happy to stay with us and to play with Chelsea."

"For us, now, it's very important to concentrate on the present and not try to see too far into the future."

Asked if Chelsea's attacking talisman would be offered a new contract, the coach said: "I don't know, this decision is something you have to take together with the club. But, I repeat, I don't see any problem with Diego and his contract."

● CHELSEA'S defence of the FA Youth Cup continues to run smoothly. Having dispatched Birmingham City 5-0 last Wednesday, the under-18s were due to host Sheffield Wednesday in the fifth round at Aldershot last night.

At Birmingham, a hat-trick by Mason Mount and strikes from Cole Dasilva and Reece James were more than enough to secure Chelsea's second consecutive 5-0 victory in the competition, having previously swept aside Cardiff City by the same margin, although coach Jody Morris felt that they should have scored more.

"I'm pleased," said Morris. "There were some really good individual performances throughout the team and, collectively, we dominated the game from start to finish. It was similar to our league game last weekend (a 0-0 home draw against Aston Villa), only this time we ended up taking some of our chances."

"That was probably the only side of this game I was a little disappointed with. We could have got double figures if we had taken our chances properly, although you can't really moan too much after a 5-0 win."

Chelsea's under-23 development squad romped to an impressive 4-0 victory at Leicester City. Mukhtar Ali netted a brace, with Dominic Solanke and an own goal making up the score.

Gaffer draws no comfort

Focus on Craven Cottage

FULHAM hope to close the gap on teams above them in the race for promotion with victory in their rearranged Championship game at Reading tonight (8pm).

The original fixture, scheduled for the Madejski Stadium on December 30, was abandoned at half-time due to fog, with the match deadlocked at 0-0.

Since then, Fulham have made their play-off ambitions crystal clear. If they win their game in hand, they will jump from ninth to seventh place and find themselves only two points adrift of the top six.

It is a measure of his team's progress this season that a late equaliser in Saturday's West London derby at in-form Queens Park Rangers failed to please Whites' head coach Slavisa Jokanovic.

Chris Martin made up for his earlier penalty miss with a 75th-minute leveller which cancelled out the strike by Ryan Manning that punished a costly, sloppy error by midfielder Kevin McDonald.

Asked if coming from behind meant he was happy with a draw, Jokanovic said: "No, we came here with the intention to win the game."

"At the beginning of the game we made a few important mistakes. We missed a penalty. We tried to find our style and we moved the ball but we made a mistake when they scored the first goal."

Jokanovic pointed out that the Loftus Road pitch was not conducive to his team's natural passing game. He said: "These conditions, with this kind of field, it's not easy for us to move the ball from one side to the other. The pitch was better for them than it was for our style, which is completely legal, but we weren't comfortable enough with the ball."

"The ball was bouncing all the time. If you watched the game, it's very clear. QPR found more benefits playing on this kind of pitch than we did."

Jokanovic says he will continue to back Martin as Whites' penalty-taker despite seeing QPR goalkeeper Alex Smithies deny his main striker from 12 yards with an excellent save in the sixth minute. In truth, the visitors were fortunate to be awarded the chance, after Sone Aluko tumbled despite minimal contact with Jake Bidwell.

"We've had eight penalties and scored only two goals," he bemoaned, "but in the future Chris Martin is going to be the man who will continue to be responsible for this kind of situation."

"We keep going and practising in training. It's football and is part of the game, these things happen – many times in our case. We are going to improve in the future."

"Chris Martin's a killer, a player who can do it well. He still scored a goal. He's a strong man and I am sure he is a guy with enough personality to take the next one and score."

Martin scored from the spot to set up a 2-0 victory over Barnsley in the last game at Craven Cottage. His deft close-range flick to equalise against QPR was his ninth goal in his last 13 league appearances.

On Sunday (12.30pm), Whites take a break from the league to host Hull City in the FA Cup fourth round.

Tony McDonald